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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 33

THE RETURN OF LIGHTFOOT

FOLK LEGEND IS BACK AT THE NAC MORE THAN 40 YEARS AFTER PERFORMING AT ITS OPENING PAGE 27

OTTAWA metro®

Thursday, June 14, 2012

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DOWNTOWN SANDBOX

Kids play in a huge sandbox on Sparks Street Wednesday as part of an awareness-raising event for The Sandbox Project, which is a charity that aims to change public policy in order to improve the health of Canadian children. Politicians, media personalities and business leaders helped the children build sandcastles in the massive sandbox — which was the world's largest, according to organizers. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Mother tells of terrified teen's ordeal

Exclusive interview. The mother of one of the alleged victims of a teen pimping ring that shocked Canadians shares her daughter's horrific story with Metro

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

The mother of one of the alleged teen human trafficking victims says her daughter is terrified after she was robbed, beaten up, held for hours, forced into an encounter with a john and threatened repeatedly with having her throat slit.

The woman, whose name cannot be published so as not to identify her daughter, says she confronted the accused teen pimp and her mother to retrieve her daughter's belongings, "and get her power back."

"She beat my daughter mercilessly in the face and the nose, kept punching her over and over again," she said of one of the accused girls.

Her daughter was held for hours, but escaped, she said.

"My daughter was terrified. She blocked the door with chairs and said, 'They're going to come back and slit my throat.' You have no idea of the terror," she said.

Her daughter's fear is why the mother contacted police and why she confronted the accused teen's mother and retrieved her daughter's belongings, which were found in two of the accused girls' homes, the woman said.

The woman says she is upset that a third suspect has not been found and that the police are unable to release her name publicly in order to locate her.

MORE COVERAGE PAGE 3 AND METRONEWS.CA

Follow Jessica Smith on Twitter @jessiecatherine

Hydro Ottawa closes deal

The $45-million purchase at Chaudière Falls includes 3 hydro-electric stations PAGE 4

Nik Skywalker

Ahead of his death-defying stunt over Niagara Falls, Nik Wallenda tells Metro he believes he's surrounded by guardian angels PAGE 10

Thank dad for 'peerenting'

Have a cool dad? Make Father's Day extra special with our gift guide PAGES 43-54

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Safety concerns

Ottawa Community Housing ups security after pimping allegations

Residents of an Ottawa Community Housing project that was allegedly home to a human trafficking ring will have a chance to voice their concerns about the safety of their community on Friday.

Sgt. John McGetrick said the three alleged victims were taken to a unit in the 2400 block of Walkley Road before they were driven to other locations and forced into acts of prostitution.

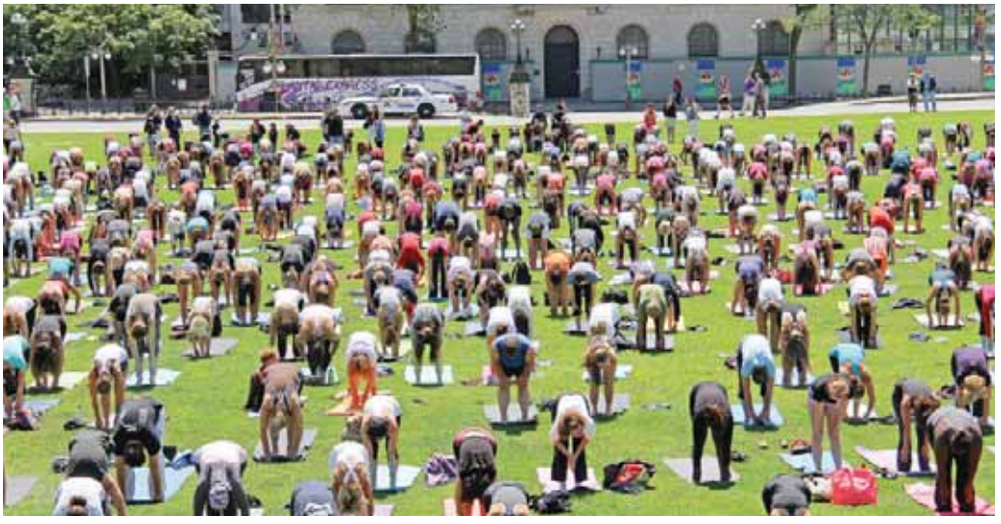
Jo-Anne Poirier, Chief Executive Officer of Ottawa Community Housing, said the community housing project is not typically a problem. "We checked our records and we've had some calls about dog issues or noise, but very little activity with respect to suspicious activity," Poirier said.

However, some residents of the housing project complained to Metro of drug dealing and gang activity in the housing complex. One man, who refused to give his name, said he wouldn't speak out about the problems because he does not want to be seen as a "rat."

Poirier said Ottawa Community Housing employs security officers and patrols have been stepped up in the area since police announced the human trafficking charges.

The housing complex also has a community house which offers access to social services and it will be open on Friday to residents who want to talk or get support, said Poirier.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO



Doing poses on Parliament Hill

Hundreds of people stretch on the front lawn of Parliament Hill Wednesday afternoon during a yoga session given by Lululemon Athletica instructors. The free sessions, for people of all skill levels, are held every week throughout the spring and summer. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Accused teen pimp unruffled in court

Confident manner. Girl remanded into custody, bail hearings set for next week

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

In mid-May a teenaged girl packed a bag with her toothbrush, makeup and iPod and went to hang out with some other girls in Ottawa, but ended up being robbed, threatened and forced into prostitution.

Details about the human trafficking ring allegedly run by teenaged girls are emerging as their cases begin the court process.

Three girls, two of them 15, the third 17, are charged with forcing three other teenaged girls, aged 13 to 17, into prostitution. One of the accused 15-year-olds, who cannot be named because of her age, appeared in court Wednesday.

About five-foot-six, the burly brunette with a pony tail maintained a confident posture and expression in court, while fiddling with the blue hoodie she wore over black sweat pants.

She spoke slowly and hesitated while giving her own date of birth. She's charged with forcibly confining the three victims, threatening them and forcing them into prostitution.

Police said the victims were all lured online by the accused to social events and then taken to an Ottawa Community Housing unit on Walkley Road, where they were assaulted and threatened, then driven to another location and forced to perform sex acts for johns.

The first victim was sexually assaulted and robbed of her iPod, clothing, makeup, toothbrush and bag between May 16 and 19, according to court documents.

The second victim was forced to be a prostitute on May 30 to 31, according to court documents. The youngest victim, aged 13, was the last. She was allegedly trafficked by the girls June 3.

Follow Jessica Smith on Twitter @jessiecatherine

Court dates

- Both of the accused girls who are in custody have court dates next week.
- Police have not yet located the 17-year-old suspect.

1 NEWS

On the web

So a wildfire walks into a bar...

In Colorado, wildfires have scores of residents fleeing their homes. As they wait out the flames, some are trying to keep up spirits by way of humour and charity. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

They live on your skin, up your nose, in your gut — a universe of bacteria, fungi and other microbes that if weighed all together would tip the scales at a few pounds. Scan the code to read about the map scientists have created outlining the microscopic critters living in and around us.

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Online chat. Got a question for the Mayor? #AskJim

Mayor Jim Watson shows up at so many community events we at Metro think he must have a clone, a twin or a Hermione Granger time turner. And yet there are still some Ottawans who have never had the chance shake his hand and talk to him about municipal politics.

You can't shake his hand on the Internet, but you can ask him questions.

I am moderating the mayor's monthly chat from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday on jimwatsonottawa.ca and metronews.ca.

You can submit questions on the websites when the chat is live or by tweeting them at any time with the hashtag #askjim.

Mayor Jim Watson
METRO FILE

I'll pick the best questions and the mayor will answer.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Nelson House

Workers bid to keep shelter open

The staff of Nelson House women's shelter is working to stop a private meeting of the shelter's board members that would see the organization shut down on Thursday. At 10:30 a.m. the group will appear in an Elgin Street courtroom where they will seek an emergency interim injunction against the meeting.

GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Magical history tour

Spotlight shines on 'lovers' walk'

A secret walkway behind Parliament Hill will emerge from the shadows on Thursday in a guided tour by Carleton history professor Joanna Dean. The walk, which starts at 6 p.m. outside the Bytown Museum, is part of the exhibition Six Moments in the History. In its heyday the walkway was plastered on postcards.

GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Hydro Ottawa buys power plants at Chaudière Falls

Closing the deal. Sale includes three Domtar hydroelectric stations, water rights, equity stake in Chaudière Water Power's ring dam consortium

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

An aerial photograph shows the hydroelectric plants at Chaudière Falls. SCREEN GRAB: MAPS.GOOGLE.COM

Hydro Ottawa announced a $45-million purchase of three hydroelectric power plants at Chaudière Falls on the Ottawa River at its annual general meeting on Wednesday.

Pierre Richard, board chair, also told city councillors the company now has a 38.3 per cent interest in the Ring Dam at Chaudière Falls.

The deal is expected to close on Aug. 31.

Richard said the purchase will boost Hydro Ottawa's generating capacity at Chaudière to 38 megawatts from 17, which is "enough to power 28,000 homes every year."

The acquisition of the generating facilities and water rights from Domtar Corporation took more than a year to finalize, Richard said, "because of all the different parties that are involved" with the Ottawa River.

Bob Monette, an Orleans councillor who sits on the Hydro Ottawa board, applauded the deal.

"It will increase power supply for Hydro Ottawa and increase their revenue stream," he said. "It's better for the residents because the City of Ottawa receives dividends from Hydro Ottawa every year."

Although Bryce Conrad, Hydro Ottawa's president and chief executive, wouldn't speculate how much the city would receive in dividends next year, he gave councillors a ballpark figure of $90 million over the next five years.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Follow Joe Lofaro on Twitter @giuseppelo

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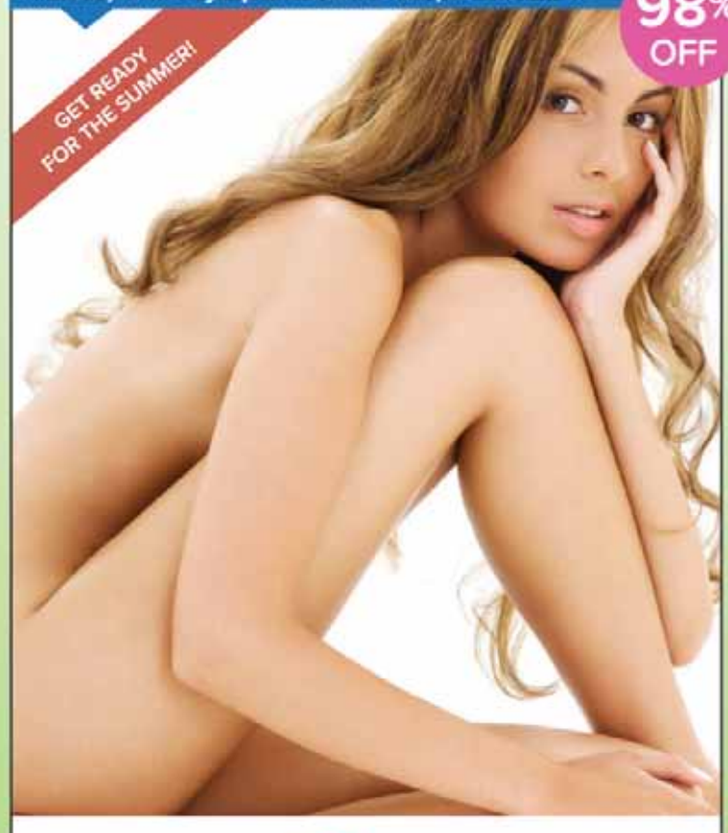

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Commendation

Heroism recognized

Mayor Jim Watson awarded Zouheir Abdul-Hussein the Governor General's Certificate of Commendation Wednesday, for helping his teenage neighbours when their mother was shot by her ex-boyfriend in their home in 2008. The award was created by the late governor general Ramon Hnatyshyn in 1993 for those who selflessly assist another person.

NOURAN ABDELLATIF/FOR METRO

Highway rollover

Swerve led to rollover: Cops

The OPP's preliminary investigation of an early Tuesday morning car rollover on Highway 417 east of Arnprior shows the vehicle swerved on the highway causing the driver, a 23-year-old woman, to lose control of the car and roll over. She was sent to the hospital with life-threatening injuries and is still in serious condition, police say. Anyone who has information about the collision is to call Ottawa OPP detachment at 613-270-9171. METRO

Safe Streets campaign

Radar signs to gather data on speed of cars

Ottawa is installing radar speed signs on Featherston Drive and Tremblay Road. The signs will record the speed of cars for a week. The data will be used to assess which streets need the most intervention. The initiative is part of Alta Vista Coun. Peter Hume's Safe Streets campaign. METRO

Rev. Andrew Johnston speaks at a noon-hour service for public servants on Wednesday. JESSICA SMITH/METRO

Church offers comfort amid layoffs storm

Job cuts. Members of congregation among civil servants affected by federal job cuts

JESSICA SMITH
jessica.smith@metronews.ca

About 50 public servants stopped by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Wednesday to hear beautiful music and inspirational readings and forget about the stress of government layoffs.

The church invited people of all faiths who are affected by civil service layoffs to the noon-hour service dubbed "Shelter in the Storm."

Inside the church, cellist Joan Harrison and pianist Thomas Annand played calming music, and members of the congregation gave readings about faith and strength in the face of an unknown future.

Sarah Lozowski, a civil servant and member of the church, said she came to be inspired.

"The attitude in the public service right now is very uncertain and people are thinking they may lose their jobs. It was an opportunity to come and have a time of peace and reflection," she said.

Margaret Meredith, a retired civil servant, said many members of the congregation are public servants and many have been given their notice.

"Many of them have had to move. It's impacting on them greatly," she said.

Follow Jessica Smith on Twitter @jessiecatherine

Cops make 60 drug arrests

The Ottawa Police street crime unit announced Wednesday it had arrested 60 people in a five-month investigation targeting drug trafficking in the ByWard Market and downtown Rideau area. Some 21 of the arrests were made the day of the announcement.

Dubbed "Project Firecracker," the operation began in January, and led to police seizing almost $52,000 worth of drugs and $14,500 in cash.

Police said they had identified 108 people who could be charged with drug trafficking and other offences.

"A project like this cannot happen without the help of the public," said Staff Sgt. Kal Ghadban. "It is completely complaint driven."

He said half the people targeted are addicts who deal to support their own addictions, while the other half deal for profit. Addicts could go to drug treatment court and receive the help they need, he said.

Representatives of Byward Market and Downtown Rideau Business Improvement Area voiced support for the force's efforts to fight drug trafficking.

"The ByWard Market BIA acknowledges and upholds the efforts of the Ottawa Police Service and projects like this that positively impact our community," said executive director Jasna Jennings.

"The BIA looks foward to continued partnerships with the OPS."

NOURAN ABDELLATIF/FOR METRO

Project Firecracker

$52K

Police seized almost $52,000 worth of drugs through Project Firecracker over five months

Staff Sgt. Kal Ghadban
NOURAN ABDELLATIF/FOR METRO

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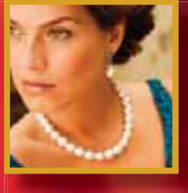

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WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO

Ice Road Trucker gets fuel efficiency lesson on roadtrip

'Hypermiling.' Being smart about saving fuel while driving comes down to technique, say experts

GRAHAM LANKTREE
graham.lanktree@metronews.ca

Taking a break from travelling the world's most dangerous roads for reality TV, Ice Road Truckers star Alex Debogorski is trying to set a new record for cross-Canada fuel-efficient driving with the help of two Australians.

Over 12 days, Debogorski will attempt to travel 6,300 kilometres from Halifax to Vancouver on less than six tanks of gas as part of Shell's Smarter Driver Challenge. Along the way, he will be coached by John and Helen Taylor, two hypermilers who hold 92 world records in fuel efficiency.

"Fuel efficiency is all about patience," Debogorski said. "You have to be very steady on the throttle and you don't want to be stomping on the brake and then pushing on the gas."

With his extensive driving experience, Debogorski is already quite fuel-efficient, the Taylors noted.

But Canadians everywhere could save hundreds of dollars on their gas bill if they adopted some simple techniques, they added.

"The beauty is that it doesn't matter what you drive," Helen Taylor said. "Everyone can easily save 10 per cent on their gas."

Nevertheless, doing so can take some practice. After filling up, Taylor recommends zeroing your odometer to keep track of how far you can go on a full tank.

"It becomes addictive — it's amazing how much you improve," she said.

Follow Graham Lanktree on Twitter @MetroGraham

From left, Ice Road Trucker Alex Debogroski, Globe and Mail writer Lorraine Sommerfeld and "hypermilers" John and Helen Taylor are vying to make the most fuel-efficient trip across Canada. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Saving the planet, one steak at a time

Meat from local farmer Paul Slomp's 40 grass-fed cattle will start being delivered to Ottawa homes this October. GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

Grass-fed beef used to be nearly impossible to get from local Ottawa farmers until Paul Slomp established Grazing Days farm in Manotick Station three years ago.

Now, after experimenting with the idea of a small-scale meat-delivery subscription service for the first two years, Slomp is confident that he can feed 300 households throughout the city with monthly or bi-monthly deliveries of beef.

"My focus is getting local, high-quality meats into the hands of people who fall outside the normal meat market," Slomp said.

Many of his customers don't eat a lot of meat, he noted, but when they do, they want to do so in the most environmentally conscious way.

Since the animals are eating grass, Slomp said, he's not relying on fossil fuels to truck in feed.

And rather than tilling his land to plant corn or grain, the grasses act as a filter for surface and ground water.

Grass-fed beef, he said, is also higher in vitamins A and E and Omega 3 and 6 fatty acids essential for human health as well as beta carotene, making it a healthier choice.

Slomp has become a key local advocate of sustainable farming practices, touting the benefits of local farming and eco-friendly food policy on Grazing Days' website.

This summer, Slomp is raising 40 head of cattle and will send them for slaughter in the fall before the service starts up in October.

Families who subscribe to the service generally get 40 pounds of beef delivered in 10-pound boxes at $92.50 a pop from then until the following June.

GRAHAM LANKTREE/METRO

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Rae won't run for Liberal leadership

Ottawa. Party leadership race now wide open as interim chief steps aside

Bob Rae won't seek the permanent leadership of the federal Liberals because it's better for the party, the interim leader said Wednesday, setting the stage for a wide-open race and renewing the tantalizing prospect of a Justin Trudeau candidacy.

Sources say the 63-year-old Rae — who will stay on as interim leader until a replacement is chosen — decided against running primarily because, despite popularity among caucus members, he still doesn't have the broad support of the party's rank and file.

"It hasn't been an easy decision, (but) it's a decision I feel very comfortable with," Rae said after breaking the news to his caucus behind closed doors. "For me, it was a question of deciding how I could do the best thing for the health of the Liberal party."

Rae's controversial tenure as Ontario NDP premier from 1990 to 1995 — marred by a deep recession, broken campaign promises and acrimonious relations with the province's unions — has long been cited as one of the principal reasons he struggled to win Liberal support. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Free-for-all

- Many are looking to Justin Trudeau to save the party, but Trudeau has said he's not interested in running.
- MPs Marc Garneau (Que.), David McGuinty (Ont.), Joyce Murray (B.C.) and Dominic LeBlanc (N.B.) are said to be thinking about running.

Liberal interim Leader Bob Rae speaks to reporters in the foyer of the House of Commons on Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

C-38. Parties keep wrangling ahead of omnibus-bill marathon

The tongue-in-cheek nickname for the omnibus Conservative budget bill is "the omni-mess" — an opposition sobriquet to describe 400-plus pages of legislation that make widespread changes to almost every facet of Canadian life.

But the term has also been sneaking into the Tory vocabulary of late as the government finds itself running up against unanticipated political fallout from the Jobs, Growth and Long-term Prosperity Act, also known as Bill C-38.

For the opposition parties, a marathon vote set to begin Wednesday night on more than 800 proposed amendments is an effort to prevent the government from sweeping the mess under the rug.

The legislation hasn't received the detailed study such enormous changes require, they argue.

"We are facing a government that does not respect this institution," said NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair.

"The reason we are elected is to look at the laws carefully and they are refusing to allow us to have a serious look at this bill."

The government has insisted it needs each and every change contained in the bill in order to follow through on its promise to create jobs and keep the economy humming.

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair
THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We live in a global economy and global events will affect us here, so we need to have the tools to continue to keep Canada strong," said Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

The government has refused repeated requests from opposition parties to break up the bill into more manageable sections.

"By refusing to compromise, the Conservatives are setting a dangerous precedent," said Liberal House leader Marc Garneau.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Greenhouse gases

Canada not on pace to meet emissions targets: Report

The federal government says it sees no need to change its greenhouse gas strategy despite a new, hard-hitting report — commissioned by Ottawa — that shows Canada falling far short of its climate change objectives.

The report by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy added up every provincial and federal measure — existing and proposed — to reduce greenhouse gases.

It found that Canada is on track to achieve only half of its 2020 target to reduce greenhouse gases by 17 per cent below 2005 levels.

"Canada will not achieve its 2020 GHG emissions-reduction target unless significant new, additional measures are taken," the report said.

In order to actually meet the target, Ottawa would have to take the lead, collaborate closely with provinces and introduce significant new measures to curtail emissions, especially in Alberta, the report concluded.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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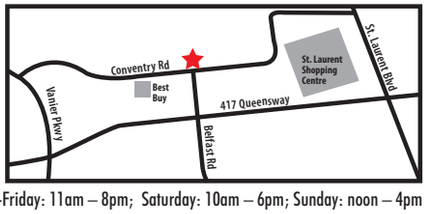


Monday-Friday: 11am – 8pm; Saturday: 10am – 6pm; Sunday: noon – 4pm

Nik Wallenda: High & mighty

King of the High Wire.
On eve of attempt to cross Niagara Falls, the skywalker talks about faith, family, what's next

KATHY ULLYOTT
For Metro in Toronto

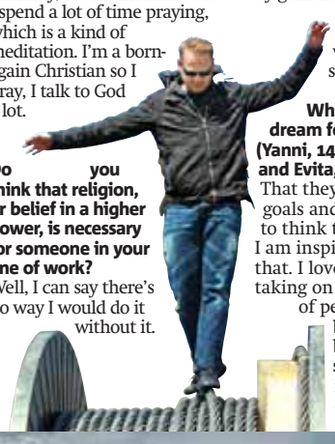
When he was 18, Nik Wallenda had his heart set on becoming a pediatrician.

But just one year later, his family, the legendary Flying Wallendas, was offered a once-in-a-generation opportunity: To re-enact the family's signature stunt, a three-tier, seven-person pyramid on a wire eight metres above the ground. In 1962, the pyramid had collapsed during a show in Detroit and killed two family members, paralyzing another.

Nik was in. And after the triumphant re-creation of the act in 1998, his path was set — on a cable just two fingers wide. This Friday the King of the High Wire will attempt to make history again by walking a wire across the thundering cataract of the Horseshoe Falls. We asked this very public man about some very private moments.

How are you preparing physically as well as mentally for the Niagara Falls skywalk?
I don't have a regular regimen; my workout changes every day depending on my schedule. I always walk several wires and I try to relax and rest. I also try to work in physical activity with my family — we'll play Frisbee, say, where you have to do 10 pushups if you miss a catch. Or catch it with your left hand only. I don't spend as much time with my kids as I'd like, so I try to be creative that way. Mentally, I don't meditate but I spend a lot of time praying, which is a kind of meditation. I'm a born-again Christian so I pray, I talk to God a lot.

Do you think that religion, or belief in a higher power, is necessary for someone in your line of work?
Well, I can say there's no way I would do it without it.



Have you ever had a supernatural experience, on or off the wire?
I wouldn't say so, no. But I do believe that I'm surrounded by guardian angels at all times, whether I'm walking a wire or walking down the street.

What is your greatest dream for your children (Yanni, 14, Amadaos, 11, and Evita, 9)?
That they achieve their goals and dreams. And I like to think that as their father, I am inspiring them to do that. I love a challenge — in taking on Niagara Falls a lot of people said it can't be done, it won't be done. But when someone says to me something can't be done, that's my cue to find a way.

If there was one thing in your life you could go back and change, what would it be?
Honestly, I wouldn't change anything. Yes, I've had great successes and some failures. But the failures, the disappointments all contribute to what I am, where I am today. And I wouldn't change that for anything.

If you could have dinner with one historical figure and ask him/her anything you want, who would that be?
That would have to be my great-grandfather, Karl Wallenda (who brought the family from Germany to America in 1928, and died in a fall from a wire in Puerto Rico in 1978). I was born in 1979 but he clearly was my inspiration. I'd love to ask him about our family, hear the family history, hear his amazing stories.

But if you could ask him just one question?
I'd ask him if he is proud. People tell me he would be honoured by what I've accomplished, but I'd love to ask him how he feels myself.

What happens after Niagara Falls?
I want to be a father and a husband for awhile. I've been consumed with this for six months — two years, really — and I really feel I've neglected my family. So I just want to spend time with them.

On the web
To view a live feed of the walk, go to metronews.ca

RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE; TOP PHOTO: HARRY SCULL JR./THE BUFFALO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

High in the sky

Daredevil legacy honoured

Nik Wallenda, 33, is a high-wire artist and acrobat. He hails from a family of daredevils and is a direct descendant of Karl Wallenda — founder of the Flying Wallendas. METRO

Steeling the thunder

$1.3M

The cost of the seven-tonne steel wire, installation, permits, security, travel and marketing is estimated at about $1.3 million. The TV deal with ABC will offset some of the cost.

Forbidden zone

Century-long ban broken

Attempting to cross Niagara Falls on a high wire has been forbidden for the last 100 years. ABC is insisting that Wallenda wear a safety harness. METRO

At the brink

Laying it on 1,800 feet of line

Wallenda plans to start on the American side and walk 1,800 feet across the falls at 200 feet above the gorge bottom. If successful, he will be the first to cross over the brink of the famous falls. METRO

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Zimbabwe. Missing diamond funds heighten political tensions

The Zimbabwe prime minister's party said Wednesday it can't pay the military until revenues from the nation's eastern diamond fields, largely sealed off by troops, reach state coffers.

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's party said the finance ministry it controls in the coalition government isn't receiving money promised from diamond sales.

The national treasury "is yet to receive a cent" from the biggest mining company that is staffed by former military and security officials, the Movement for Democratic Change said.

The defence ministry has said it needs cash for soldiers who are going hungry and to fund a recruitment drive for an additional 5,000 men. Defence officials loyal to President Robert Mugabe have threatened violence, the MDC said. Defence Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa vowed to send army generals to the finance ministry to force Minister Tendai Biti to meet the military's demands, it said.

Top military commanders have repeatedly refused to salute Tsvangirai. In the latest statement of defiance, a third general last month repeated that the military would not allow politicians who did not fight in the bush war that led to independence in 1980 to take over the reins of power, even if they win elections proposed early next year.

Human rights groups accuse the military and police of being at the forefront of political violence and intimidation surrounding disputed elections in 2008 that led to the formation of the troubled power-sharing coalition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diamonds

$600 M

Zimbabwe finance minister Tendai Biti said he was promised $600 million in diamond revenues this year, and has only received $30 million.

Guantanamo

9/11 'mastermind' to wear military clothing at trial

The man who has called himself the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, is seeking to wear military-style clothing at his upcoming war crimes trial in Guantanamo, one of his attorneys said Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking up

Somalian capital experiencing rare stretch of peace

Mogadishu is losing a label it never wanted in the first place: The World's Most Dangerous City.

The seaside Somali capital is enjoying a peace that, except for the infrequent attack, has lasted the better part of a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wave of car bombs kill, wound Iraqi Shiites

Religious tensions. Sunni insurgents suspected in mass bombing targeting Shiites on annual pilgrimage

The scene of a car-bomb attack in the Karrada neighborhood of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday. KARIM KADIM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A co-ordinated wave of car bombs struck Shiite pilgrims in Baghdad and several other cities Wednesday, killing at least 66 people and wounding more than 200 in one of the deadliest days in Iraq since U.S. troops withdrew from the country.

The bloodshed comes against a backdrop of political divisions that have raised tensions and threatened to provoke a new round of the violence that once pushed Iraq to the brink of civil war. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but they bore the hallmarks of Sunni insurgents who frequently target Shiites in Iraq.

Wednesday's blasts were the third this week targeting the annual pilgrimage that sees hundreds of thousands of Shiites converge on a golden-domed shrine in Baghdad's northern neighbourhood of Kazimiyah to commemorate the eighth century death of a revered Shiite saint, Imam Moussa al-Kadhim. The commemoration culminates on Saturday.

Puddles of blood and shards of metal clogged a drainage ditch at the site of one of the bombings in the city of Hillah, where hours before pilgrims had been marching. Soldiers and onlookers wandered near the charred remains of the car that had exploded and ripped gaping holes in nearby shops.

Most of the 16 separate explosions that rocked the country targeted Shiite pilgrims in five cities, but two hit offices of political parties linked to Iraq's Kurdish minority in the tense north. Authorities had tightened security ahead of the pilgrimage, including a blockade of the mainly Sunni area of Azamiyah, which is near the twin-domed Shiite shrine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Political strife

Political divisions in Iraq have deepened, paralyzing the country since the Americans withdrew all combat troops in mid-December.

- Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has been accused of trying to monopolize power.
- Tensions spiked after Vice-President Tariq al-Hashemi — the highest-ranking Sunni in Iraq's leadership — was charged with running death squads.
- The political stagnation has set back hopes for stability in Iraq and stalled efforts to rebuild the country after eight years of U.S. occupation.
- Baghdad military command spokesman Col. Dhia al-Wakeel said Wednesday's attacks were intended to reignite all-out sectarian bloodshed.

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Teacher showed his students grim body-parts case video

Caution: Disturbing content. High school swiftly suspends man, but students defend him, saying they asked him to play it

A teacher has been suspended by a Montreal school for showing Grade 10 students the infamous video that shows a killing allegedly committed by Luka Rocco Magnotta.

The teacher showed the students the grotesque scenes on June 4 and was immediately suspended that afternoon — with pay.

The video is so disturbing that even seasoned detectives who watched it were troubled by the contents, Montreal police say.

Staff at Cavelier-De LaSalle High School in Montreal's west end say they quickly informed the students that a team of psychologists was available to deal with any problems from watching the video.

"We condemn with one voice the actions of the teacher," the school board said Wednesday.

"The incident is being taken very seriously."

Students are defending the popular young teacher — who one described as being in his 20s.

Another student said it was the kids who asked him to play the video. She said the teacher was hesitant. A few children in the class also objected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reality

"For sure, at the beginning I found it tough. But I wasn't traumatized or anything. We see so much these days on TV."
Maude Aubin-Boivin, 17

Students speak to reporters at Cavelier-De LaSalle High School in Montreal on Wednesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Police confirm it

DNA shows Lin's body parts were mailed to B.C.

Montreal police said Wednesday that DNA results have confirmed the two body parts mailed to Vancouver last week belong to student Jun Lin.

Luka Rocco Magnotta, a porn actor, is suspected of killing and dismembering Lin before sending some of his body parts to Canadian political parties and schools.

In Berlin, a court has ordered Magnotta to be held in pre-extradition custody as his likely return to Canada edges closer.

Magnotta, 29, fled to Europe and was captured at an Internet café in Berlin. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Forest boy keeps all Germany guessing

Mystery. He says his mother died and he buried his father, but he doesn't know his real name

Mystery boy Ray now uses a laptop and cellphone and goes to school. But who is he? POLICE PHOTO

Who is Ray? That's the question all Germany is asking.

Ray is an English-speaking teenage boy who wandered into Berlin nine months ago saying he had been living for the last five years in the forest with his father.

But "there are many question marks," police spokesperson Thomas Neuendorf said.

The boy told authorities his father called him "Ray" and that he was born June 20, 1994, but claims not to know his last name or where he's from.

He said his mother, Doreen, died in a car accident when he was 12 and after that he and his father, Ryan, took to the forest.

He said they wandered using maps and a compass, staying in tents or caves overnight.

He told authorities that after his father died in August, 2011, he buried him in the forest and then walked five days north before ending up in Berlin, and showed up at city hall.

Police released a photo of Ray on Wednesday. "We have checked his DNA against all missing person reports and sent the data to Interpol so they can check it internationally," Neuendorf said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hubby's a bit of a giggle

Those royals are certainly high-flyers. Here, Prince William throws a foam javelin skyward, sparking a giggle from his wife, Kate, Duchess of Cambridge. It happened at a children's sports event at Vernon Park in Nottingham Wednesday. PHIL NOBLE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Turley rebels

Scouts chief raps policy on gays

A high-profile member of the Boy Scouts of America's governing board says he doesn't support the Scouts' policy of excluding gays and will work from within to seek a change.

Ernst & Young CEO James Turley, whose giant accounting firm has welcomed gays and lesbians in its own work force, becomes the first member of the Scouts' executive board known to publicly disapprove of the policy.

"I support the meaningful work of the Boy Scouts in preparing young people for adventure, leadership, learning and service," Turley said.

"However the membership policy is not one I would personally endorse."

The Boy Scouts responded Wednesday, saying: "We believe that good people can personally disagree on this topic and still work together."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$17-million case

Amish defrauded, man sent to jail

A federal judge in Ohio has sentenced a man to six and a half years in prison for defrauding fellow Amish in 29 states out of nearly $17 million.

Monroe Beachy, 78, pleaded guilty to mail fraud in a scheme the government says defrauded nearly 2,700 people and entities.

Beachy is a member of an Amish church about 96 kilometres south of Cleveland where he operated an investment business that filed for bankruptcy protection two years ago.

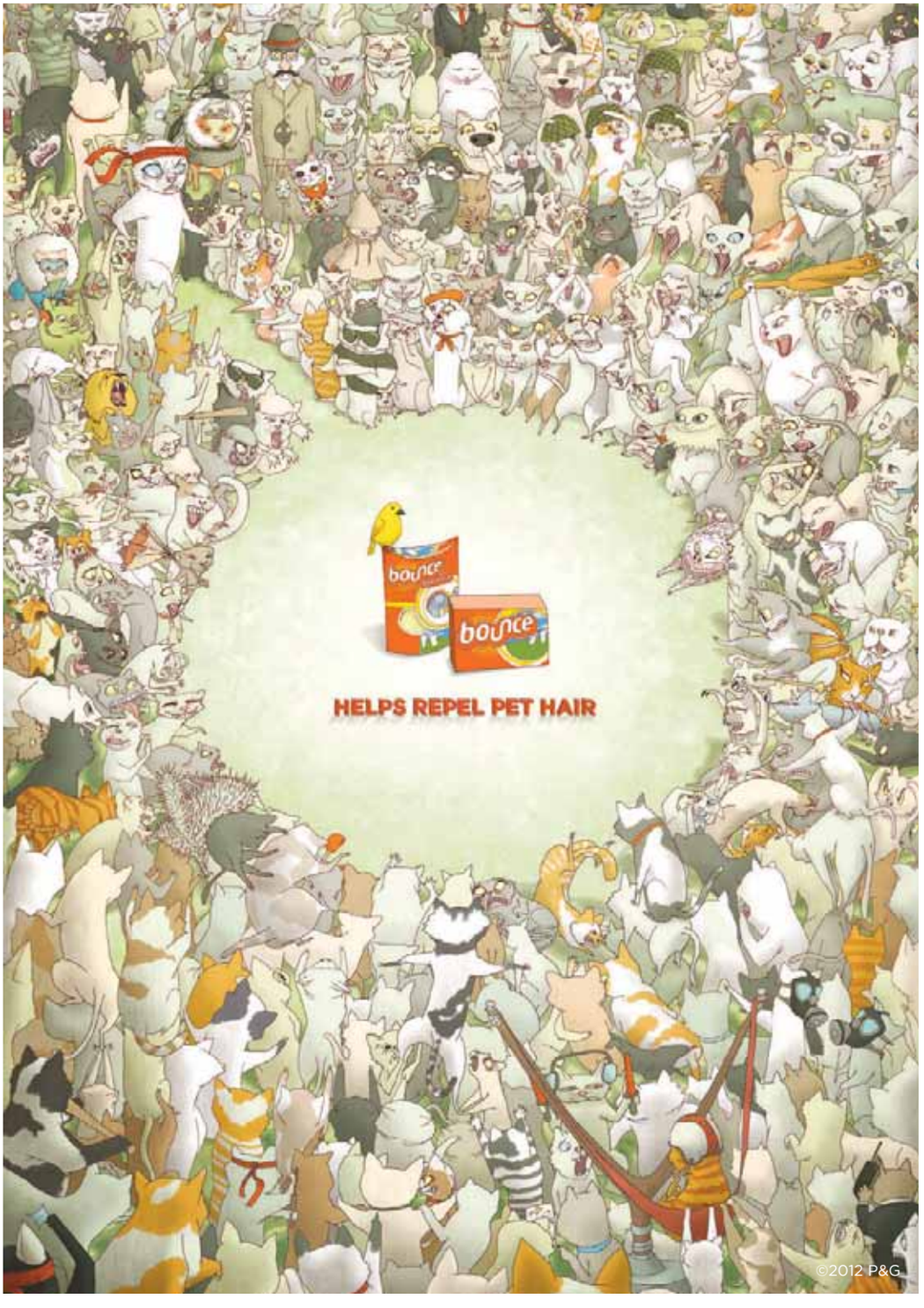
Investigators say Beachy promised to put the investors' money into safer securities.

But instead he used it for higher-risk investments.

It's uncommon for the Amish to take their disputes public.

The deeply traditional religious group shuns most modern advances, including electrical appliances.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mouthing off. Rob Lowe gets flack online for 'hellhole Winnipeg' rant

It seems hell hath no fury like a city that's been called a "hellhole" by a second-tier Hollywood actor.

Rob Lowe, in Winnipeg to shoot a made-for-TV movie, has stirred up anger after writing a message on Twitter Tuesday night that ended with the hashtag "#Trappedinahellhole."

Lowe was complaining about how he was watching the NBA playoffs on TV when the station interrupted the game for coverage of municipal elections.

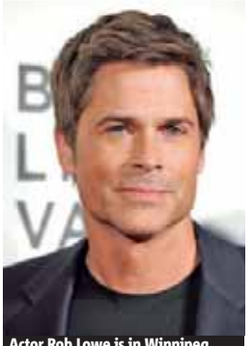
However, there were no municipal elections in Manitoba Tuesday — Lowe was likely watching a TV station based across the border in Grand Forks, N.D.

Winnipeg residents quickly fired back on Twitter, calling Lowe a jerk, a schmuck and other names.

"You can leave any time," wrote Ken Johnston.

"Feel free to leave the hell hole. I'm sure another great thespian could take your role," wrote Scott Cawson.

The apparent jab came as a disappointment to Liz Peters, a Lowe fan who managed to get a picture with the star outside his hotel last week. Lowe seemed quite happy and had no complaints, she said.



Actor Rob Lowe is in Winnipeg to shoot a TV movie.
EVAN AGOSTINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lowe was on the sitcom Parks and Recreation and also a former star of The West Wing. He's in Winnipeg to work on a made-for-TV movie about the trial of Casey Anthony, a Florida mother who was acquitted in the death of her daughter.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winnipeg's dumpster doggie Rayne OK

A puppy named Rayne is cared for by a City of Winnipeg Animal Services staff member after being found in a dumpster last week. The eight-week-old shepherd-collie mix was found wet and cold in a north-end garbage bin. Rayne hasn't been adopted yet due to a five-day holding period the agency has in place, but the cute little pup is getting lots of attention.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'The dog did it'

The dog didn't do it, police say

A western Pennsylvania man who blamed his dog for causing an apartment fire has been jailed on charges that he set the blaze himself.

Cresson Township police have charged 58-year-old John Saparo with setting the fire, though police have yet to specify how.

Police did say they've determined the fire didn't start the way Saparo claimed. He told officers he was cleaning and had several fans running when his dog knocked one over which, somehow, started the fire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saanich, B.C.

Alleged BBQ-chip bandits arrested

Police have arrested two women in their early 20s after a bag of barbeque chips and a swath of fabric was stolen from a Saanich garage. Cops found a residential garage door was open and located the suspects. METRO

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Immediate family members and personal representatives (i.e. those responsible for administering an estate) are invited to contact us to find out if an organ was retained in their case.

Affected families and personal representatives may request that the organ be sent to a funeral home for cremation or burial. Expenses will be covered by the Ontario Forensic Pathology Service and the Office of the Chief Coroner.

Organs retained before June 14, 2010, will be respectfully disposed of beginning on June 14, 2013. This is in accordance with regulations made under the Coroners Act.

A toll-free telephone line has been set up. Contact us at 1-855-564-4122 or visit our website at Ontario.ca/OrganRetention.

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INTERNATIONAL News

Papal envoy backs bishops over birth control

Religious liberty fight. 'Delicate' approach needed in context of presidential election, ambassador says

The pope's U.S. ambassador praised American bishops Wednesday for confronting the American government over religious liberty issues, including resisting the mandate from President Barack Obama's administration that health insurance cover birth control.

Archbishop Carlo Vigano, the papal nuncio based in Washington, noted such advocacy required a "delicate" approach in the context of a presidential election. But Vigano said the concerns were so worrisome that bishops had to act.

"It goes without saying that the Catholic Church in the United States is living in a particularly challenging period of its history," Vigano told an Atlanta meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Of course, I am thinking of the whole question of freedom of religion and of conscience."

The national gathering is the bishops' first since dioceses filed a dozen lawsuits against an Obama administration mandate that most employers provide health insurance covering birth control. The rule generally exempts houses of worship, but faith-affiliated hospitals, charities and schools would have to comply.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bishops battle back

- The U.S. bishops are organizing a Fortnight for Freedom, two weeks of rallies and prayer services on religious freedom leading up to July 4.

Pope Benedict XVI delivers his blessing at the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome on Monday. RICCARDO DE LUCA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surveying a mock spill

A child is pushed in a stroller past a mock oil spill outside the Enbridge Northern Gateway pipeline office in downtown Vancouver on Wednesday. The display was set up by Greenpeace to show the risks of spills similar to the recent one outside of Red Deer, Alta.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pickton inquiry. Probe finds no evidence of harassment at commission

An investigation into claims of sexual harassment within the offices of the Robert Pickton inquiry found no evidence to corroborate what remain anonymous allegations published in the media, says a report by the lawyer who conducted the probe.

The National Post newspaper published a story in April that relied on anonymous sources who alleged they were sexually harassed while working at the commission.

The article prompted commissioner Wally Oppal to appoint an independent lawyer, Delayne Sartison, to look into the allegations. In the meantime, the commission's executive director, John Boddie, took a paid leave of absence to ensure the investigation's independence.

Sartison interviewed current and former staff members but found no evidence of sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, according to her report, released by the commission Wednesday.

"Many of the staff interviewed expressed that they were 'very surprised' or 'shocked' to learn of allegations of sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination at the commission," says the report.

Pickton was arrested in 2002 and eventually convicted of six counts of second-degree murder. The remains or DNA of 33 women were found on his farm. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Putin clamps down hard on opposition as protests continue

Russia. Anti-corruption whistleblower and leftist leader summoned for interrogation; Putin frustrated over demos

Protesters carry a banner "Russia Go Forward without Putin" as tens of thousands flooded Moscow streets Tuesday. ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two Russian opposition leaders were questioned by investigators on Wednesday, a day after they helped organize the largest protest against Vladimir Putin since his return to the presidency in May.

Anti-corruption whistleblower Alexei Navalny and leftist leader Sergei Udaltsov were questioned as part of an investigation into an earlier rally on May 6 that ended in fierce clashes between police and protesters.

They were summoned for interrogation and had their apartments raided on the eve of Tuesday's rally in what was seen as part of Kremlin efforts to discourage people from attending the anti-Putin protests.

Twelve people have already been arrested on criminal charges in connection with the May 6 rally.

"All the questions have been 'Did you organize the riots? Did you finance the riots?"' Navalny said Wednesday as he headed into the Investigative Committee for a second day of interrogation.

Putin appears frustrated that the protests that drew tens of thousands of people onto the streets of Moscow ahead of the March presidential election have not died away as many expected.

He has increased pressure on the protest leaders, singling out Navalny, whose interrogation lasted more than six hours. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia

Journalist threatened

A newspaper editor on Wednesday accused Russia's top investigator of threatening to kill one of his journalists following a dispute over coverage.

Dmitry Muratov, the editor of Novaya Gazeta, which employed journalist Anna Politkovskaya until her murder in 2006, urged Investigative Committee chief Alexander Bastrykin to provide security guarantees for Sergei Sokolov.

Muratov claimed in an open letter that on June 4, Bastrykin's guards forcibly placed Sokolov into a car and drove him to a forest. Once there, he alleged, their chief got into the car and threatened to kill him.

The Investigative Committee would not comment on the letter, which dominated Russian online media Wednesday.

Muratov claims that Bastrykin was angered by a June 4 article by Sokolov that accused him of failing to punish the perpetrators of a 2010 killing of 12 people by a gang. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rohingya Muslims who fled Myanmar to Bangladesh to escape religious violence, sit in a boat after being intercepted crossing the Naf River by border authorities in Taknaf, Bangladesh, Wednesday.
ANURUP TITU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food prices skyrocket amid Myanmar unrest

Buddhists versus Muslims. Violence triggered by rape and murder of Buddhist woman, allegedly by 3 Muslims

Heavy rain brought an uneasy calm in western Myanmar on Wednesday after five days of sectarian strife, though residents were too fearful to sleep and faced food shortages.

The conflict pitting ethnic Rakhine Buddhists against stateless Rohingya Muslims in coastal Rakhine state has caused at least 21 deaths and more than 1,600 homes have been torched in some of the worst sectarian unrest recorded in Myanmar in years.

Fearfully quiet

"It is quiet here this morning but life has not returned to normal. We live in fear every day and night."

San Shwe, a resident
recounting unconfirmed rumours that authorities had seized weapons caches from Muslim villagers.

An Associated Press journalist in the state capital, Sittwe, confirmed it was calm, with no signs of the scattered fires seen in recent days. Soldiers and police patrolled and warned people by loudspeaker to abide the existing state of emergency, which gives the military full authority over administrative and security functions in Rakhine.

Fears of renewed violence halted bus and ferry deliveries of food and other cargo from Yangon to Sittwe, limiting supplies and sending prices skyrocketing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Illegal immigration

Australia-bound migrants arrested

Eighty people, including Sri Lankans, Afghans and Indians who allegedly intended to migrate illegally to Australia were arrested in Sri Lanka, officials said Wednesday.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli naval raid

Report slams PM's direction

A government report slammed Benjamin Netanyahu's decisions regarding a Gaza-bound ship raid as "flawed." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Islamist riots. Tunisia leaders condemn extremists after attacks

Tunisia's leaders on Wednesday condemned extremists after days of riots by radical Islamists left one man dead, injured 62 security personnel and led to more than 160 arrests.

Ultraconservative Islamists known as Salafis attacked an art gallery Sunday in a Tunis suburb for an exhibition they said insulted Islam. After security forces dispersed them with tear gas, gangs attacked police stations around the country over the next few days.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Tunisian firefighter tries to extinguish a burning tire after it was set on fire by radical Islamists during overnight riots near Tunis Tuesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Syria conducting scorched-earth campaign in rebel areas: Amnesty

Terrorizing towns.
New report says brutal attacks by government forces are part of a 'deliberate policy'

Syrian forces and militias dragged men from their homes, executing them and burning their bodies as their families watched — a campaign to terrorize the residents of towns believed to shelter rebels, Amnesty International charged in a report released Wednesday.

The report by the London-based rights group said Syrian forces were engaging in a scorched-earth policy in some areas, killing some civilians and torturing others, shooting livestock and burning crops and houses in rebel-held areas.

Amnesty said the attacks appeared to increase as the 15-month uprising has transformed into an armed conflict between rebels and Syrian forces.

The group said it based its information on more than 200 interviews with residents in 23 Syrian towns and villages over six weeks, starting in mid-April.

Amnesty said it also documented incidents of rebels kidnapping and killing captured soldiers and pro-government thugs, known as "shabiha," but said the vast majority of abuses were committed by government forces and their allies.

"The frequency and brutality of government reprisals against towns and villages supportive of the opposition has escalated, in an apparent bid to punish the inhabitants ... and to frighten them into submission," the report said.

"The scale of the attacks, and the manner in which they were carried out, indicates that such crimes were perpetrated as part of a deliberate policy," it said.

In one incident, an Amnesty researcher saw Syrian security forces and their loyalist militias opening fire on demonstrators and passersby, including children, to quell a protest in the northern city of Aleppo.

It was one of the few that Amnesty itself witnessed. The testimonies it gathered could not be independently confirmed. The Syrian government had no comment on the report.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nepalese activists hold placards during a Wednesday rally against human rights violations in Syria. The protest was organized by Amnesty International and held outside the UN office in Kathmandu, Nepal.
NIRANJAN SHRESTHA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harper sounds off

P.M. urges Russia to stop blocking UN sanctions

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has called on Russia to stop blocking UN attempts to impose sanctions on the "murderous" Syrian regime of Bashar Assad.

But the prospect of that succeeding, or any other attempt to sway Russia, appeared doomed by deteriorating relations between Washington and the Kremlin over accusations Moscow was supplying attack helicopters to its longtime ally in Damascus. Harper singled out Russia in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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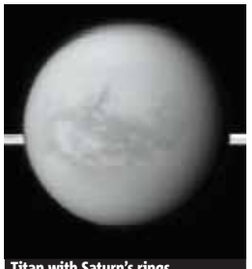
Lake and ponds discovered on moon of Saturn

Lunar oasis? Find near equator of satellite defuses theory that bodies of liquid can only exist near poles



Titan with Saturn's rings in the background.
NASA/THE ASSOCIATE PRESS

In a surprise find, scientists say they have spotted hints of a methane-rich lake and several ponds near the equator of Saturn's biggest moon.

Lakes were previously spied near Titan's polar regions. It was long thought that bodies of liquid could not exist near the tropics because they would evaporate.

"This discovery was completely unexpected because lakes are not stable at tropical latitudes," said planetary scientist Caitlin Griffith of the University of Arizona, who led the discovery team.

By measuring reflected sunlight from Titan's surface and atmosphere, the international Cassini spacecraft detected a dark region near the landing site of Huygens, a companion probe that parachuted to Titan's equator in 2005.

Scientists said further analysis of the dark feature suggests the presence of a 2,400-square-kilometre hydrocarbon lake — twice as big as Lake Champlain, a freshwater lake that borders upstate New York and Vermont. Near the tropical lake were hints of four shallow ponds similar in size and depth to marshes on Earth.

The findings were detailed in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Titan is among the few bodies in the solar system with a dense atmosphere, but scientists have wrestled over the source of the thick blanket of nitrogen and methane. Methane gas in the atmosphere is constantly broken up by sunlight and falls to the surface where it is transported back to the poles, condensing to form lakes.

Scientists do not believe this process is driving the presence of tropical lakes and ponds. Rather, they think there may be an underground source of methane that periodically vents to the surface to form the hydrocarbon bodies of liquid.

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Ugandan women go to highest court over maternal deaths

Serious role.
Decision in favour of the women would shame government

More than 100 women die during childbirth each week in Uganda, a heartbreaking statistic that has energized activists to go to the Supreme Court in a bid to force the government to put more resources toward maternal health care to prevent the wave of deaths.

The activists say they want the country's top judges to declare that women's rights are violated when they die in childbirth, the kind of statement a lower court declined to give last week. In rejecting the petition, the constitutional court said the matter was for the country's political leaders to handle.

The country's top judges have a serious role to play:

Women walk out of court in Kampala, Uganda, earlier this month after losing a case against the government over maternal deaths during childbirth. STEPHEN WANDERA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A declaration favouring the activists would shame the government into action that drastically reduces mortality among childbearing women in Uganda, activists say.

"All we want is a declaration that when women die during childbirth it is a violation of their rights," said Noor Musisi of the Center for Health, Human Rights and Development, a Kampala-based group that is championing the legal push. The groups presented the bid to the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

Uganda loses 16 women in childbirth daily, a figure some activists boldly emphasize on placards during regular marches in the streets of the Ugandan capital. Most of these deaths happen in villages where bad roads and poverty make it difficult for women to reach health centres. Even when they get there, some say, the available care is poor.

The case now before the Supreme Court is supported by more than 50 civil society organizations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Korean vendors burning with anger

South Korean street vendors burn letters representing the Korea Democratic Street Vendors Confederation during a rally against the government's crackdown on them in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday. Thousands of protesters attended the rally, demanding job security. LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Falklands

Islanders praise referendum plans

Falkland Islanders are praising plans for a referendum on their future, saying it will show the world that they have no desire to be ruled by Argentina.

Plans for the vote were announced as islanders celebrate the British military action that freed them from their South American neighbour 30 years ago.

But Argentine President Cristina Fernandez is going to the UN to argue that the "Islas Malvinas" remain an integral part of the Argentine nation.

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Switzerland

Can you have too much democracy?

Switzerland is holding a referendum on referendums. Nationalists want Swiss voters to have a say every time the government signs an important international treaty. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lady in red. Russian ex-spy struts down the catwalk

Russian ex-spy Anna Chapman walked a Turkish catwalk in a long red dress at a fashion show, flanked by two men posing as Secret Service agents in black suits and sunglasses.

Hikmet Eraslan said Wednesday his Dosso Dossi clothing company donated to Chapman's charity foundation for children with poor eyesight in Volgograd, Russia, in return for her appearance last Friday.

The 30-year-old Chapman was deported from the United States in 2010 along with nine other Russian sleeper agents.

She appeared on the runway in the Mediterranean city of Antalya, a top Turkish vacation destination.

Chapman has been keeping a high profile since her deportation to Russia, modelling, editing a magazine, giving lectures and running the foundation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian ex-spy Anna Chapman, centre, walks a catwalk at a fashion show in Antalya, Turkey, earlier this month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German MPs booted for clothes linked to Neo-Nazis

Controversy. Far-right lawmakers thrown out of state parliament for wearing brand popular among extremists

The president of Saxony's state parliament expelled eight far-right lawmakers from the assembly Wednesday for wearing clothes favoured by German neo-Nazis.

The NPD party lawmakers refused to remove T-shirts and shirts from the Thor Steinar company in an "openly provocative act," Saxony state parliament spokesman Ivo Klatte said.

The brand, with its runic symbols and Nordic themes, is popular among neo-Nazis in Germany, even though the company has distanced itself from far-right extremism in the past.

The lawmakers were banned from parliament's next three sessions after refusing to change or leave, Klatte said. They only left voluntarily after police entered the assembly hall to enforce their expulsion.

Parliament's rules forbid clothes, posters or stickers expressing a political opinion in the assembly hall, Klatte said.

Thor Steinar clothes are "typical for the far-right scene," and assembly president Matthias Roessler said that wearing them amounted to an overt expression of a political opinion, Klatte said.

Lawmakers from centre-left and far-left opposition parties in the past were also sanctioned for wearing political stickers or posters in parliament. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Response

The NPD lawmakers maintained they were not trying to provoke parliament, but that the Thor Steinar shirts were worn as a "protest action" targeted at the rules banning such clothes, said NPD spokesman Thorsten Thomsen.

- "We think that no caucus member was wearing clothes that explicitly express a political opinion," he said, adding Thor Steinar was merely a "fashion brand."

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'Purple rain' in India

Police use coloured water from a water cannon to disperse Kashmiri government employees protesting against the government in Srinagar, India, on Wednesday. The employees demanded the government compensate them for unpaid salaries and raise the retirement age. MUKHTAR KHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canada being hit by Dutch Disease: Report

Economic analysis. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development traces the steep decline of manufacturing

The OECD is weighing in on the controversy surrounding whether Canada is suffering from an economic condition known as Dutch Disease, and it's qualified answer is yes.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development warns in a report released Wednesday that the run-up in commodity prices is leading to an uneven economy in Canada.

Resource-rich provinces such as Alberta, Saskatchewan and Newfoundland have prospered, while others have fallen behind, in part because a commodity boom has strengthened the Canadian dollar, hurting exchange-sensitive sectors such as manufacturing and tourism.

A similar problem occurred in the Netherlands after its North Sea oil fields created a new source of resource wealth and contributed to the hollowing out of the manufacturing sector there, hence the term Dutch Disease.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mixed reactions

The analysis mirrors that of NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair, who has been accused of pitting regions against each other for political purposes.

- Last month, the Pembina Institute said what it called "oilsands fever" has spread benefits unevenly across the country and could be hiding economic turmoil down the road.
- A second report from the Macdonald-Laurier Institute argued that all provinces benefit from the commodity boom.

China's consumer market growing

Customers look at displays of silk dresses at a shop in Shanghai on Wednesday. Chinese consumers can afford to splash out more on higher-quality products, but also expect better value for money than in the past, according to a study by the American Chamber of Commerce. China's consumer market is forecast to become the second largest in the world after the U.S. by 2015. Both Chinese and foreign companies are struggling to keep up as the market evolves, said the report, released Wednesday. For companies like Kraft Foods Inc. and PepsiCo. Inc., that means tailoring products to suit local tastes while leveraging the company's global brand name. Kraft spent much time researching Shanghai consumers, going into their homes, to understand their preferences in developing a branding strategy for its famous Chips Ahoy and Oreo cookies, said Haiyan Wang, chief marketing officer for Kraft Foods China. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retail

Dollarama rolling out $3 items

Dollarama Inc. plans to gradually introduce some non-grocery items priced as high as $3 this summer, the Montreal-based discount retailer announced Wednesday along with a better-than-expected profit.

Larry Rossy, Dollarama's chairman and chief executive, said customers have responded well to the addition of items that are priced above $1 — although the previous limit was $2.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 97.16¢ US (+0.24¢)

TSX 11,497.87 (+0.58)

OIL $82.62 US (-70¢)

GOLD $1,619.40 US (+$5.60)

Natural gas: $2.185 US (-4.7¢)
Dow Jones: 12,496.38 (-77.42)

Trade. Minister denounces protectionism as job killer

Free and open trade, rather than protectionism, is the best way to secure a global recovery and create jobs, International Trade Minister Ed Fast told a Montreal economic conference Wednesday.

In a speech to the International Economic Forum of the Americas, Fast said Canada must improve its access to growing markets around the world, particularly in Latin America and the Asia Pacific region.

Canada's government also hopes to conclude the world's largest free-trade agreement with the European Union by the end of this year, he added.

Fast said people who deny the benefits of trade wilfully ignore the foundation of Canadian prosperity and its history.

"At its very heart, the anti-trade opposition lacks faith that Canada can succeed in the global economy," Fast told delegates to the 18th annual Conference of Montreal.

"They represent a Canada that cowers in the face of competition. A Canada that lacks confidence."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Housing. Canadian home prices fell in first quarter

Canadian housing market conditions have cooled slightly, with prices down nearly two per cent in the first-quarter, but the country continues to outperform other developed nations, according to a new Scotiabank real estate report.

The latest Scotiabank Global Real Estate Trends report released Wednesday found that the inflation-adjusted national average home price fell by 1.6 per cent in the first quarter of 2012 compared to the same period of 2011.

That compared with a 1.3 inflation-adjusted year-over-year gain in the fourth quarter of 2011.

Canada's housing market remains an outperformer among developed nations, but conditions have cooled here as well, according to Scotiabank economist Adrienne Warren.

"Price trends are relatively steady in the majority of local markets, though a few, notably Toronto, continue to report strong appreciation," Warren writes in the report, released Wednesday.

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HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE GAME

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

North Americans have finally accepted the Beautiful Game. When I watched my first World Cup in 1990, people condemned soccer as boring and unmanly and just generally this European thing we didn't understand, like men in beach thongs.

Now, as the Euro plays out, even those who don't love it have come to accept its value. It's like when a passively xenophobic guy in a small town meets his first immigrant. "Hey," he says, "that soccer guy is all right."

Soccer and I got off to rocky start. I remember watching 22 years ago and thinking that each game had the same excitement level as CPAC.

Stop the excitement!

"I thought maybe there was an applause meter that let refs know when the game was getting too interesting."

But then there would be a long pass, the announcer's voice would rise and, at long last, the cry known around the world would ring out across the continents: Offside!

My understanding of the rule then was that whenever anything exciting was about to happen, the whistle would blow. I thought maybe there was an applause meter that let refs know when the game was getting too interesting.

I also had a problem with diving — not that players did it, but that they were so bad at it.

Soccer players are terrible actors. A player will collapse to the pitch like he's stepped on a land mine, even though replays show the opposing player had only made eye contact. That I can accept, but the game loses me when the diver rolls back and forth like he's kneading a patch of dough. No truly injured person in the history of the world has ever rolled back and forth violently. Nobody who's been in a car accident thinks, "Better roll it out."

And of course I hated hooligans. Even hated the name, which makes the most despicable people in the world sound like loveable scamps.

But I've since come around, if only because North America knows how to screw up their sports, too.

If I still find the occasional soccer game boring, I need only think of what it was like to watch this year's NHL playoffs, which in the final two rounds were an amazing display of shot-blocking, icings and offsides that the world had not witnessed the likes of since mid-January.

If I consider diving unsportsmanlike, I can think of how many people shrug off baseball players cheating their way right into the record books.

And if I wish to condemn rioters and thugs (and I do), I can also note how often North American sporting events seem to be celebrated with the ceremonial Burning of the Cars.

So now when the World Cup and the Euro roll around, I latch on to a team or two and drink in the colourful costumes, bicycle kicks, celebration runs and the rising crescendo of the soccer chant.

Frankly, any sport that can get 80,000 fans in one place without any of them singing YMCA is all right by me.

Danish fans soak up the atmosphere during a Euro 2012 match between Denmark and Portugal at Arena Lviv Wednesday in Lviv, Ukraine.
ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

Highs and lows at Euro 2012

MARTIN ROSE/GETTY IMAGES

Action

Portugal wins, Russian fans rage

A Portugal fan enjoys the pre-game atmosphere during a Euro 2012 match between Denmark and Portugal at Arena Lviv on Wednesday in Lviv, Ukraine.

Portugal went on to beat Denmark 3-2.

But the tournament has not been without its fair share of controversy.

Russia could be deducted six points in its qualifying group for the next European Championship if its fans turn violent again at Euro 2012.

UEFA fined the Russian soccer association $150,000 US on Wednesday because its fans attacked stadium stewards at a match last week in Poland. UEFA also gave the federation a suspended six-point deduction for a repeat offence.

Within hours of the announcement, UEFA charged Russia with further offences relating to its fans' behaviour inside the National Stadium during the match against Poland on Tuesday in Warsaw. Russian fans were also filmed fighting with stadium staff in Wroclaw after a 4-1 win last Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baring it all

Croatia's culture ministry has told an employee to stop revealing her bare breasts at European Championship matches.

- Topless Internet photos of Jelena Miksa, a clerk at the culture ministry, and a female family member have been a hit on social networks and local media as they celebrated Croatia's 3-1 victory over Ireland on Sunday in Poznan, Poland.
- The women said they did it in support of the team.

Offside

"We don't want to sound discourteous — we've always been willing to take on any type of subject — but we'll return to that when we're calmer, not on the eve of a key match."

Italy coach Cesare Prandelli, responding to Italy player Antonio Cassano's remark on gay footballers. Cassano said Tuesday that he hopes there are no homosexual players on the national team at the European Championship, then used a derogatory word to describe gays. Hours later, he issued an apology.

Metropolitan Panel

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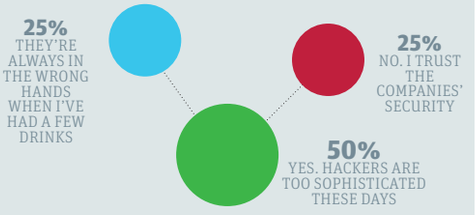
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@MattyWinks:
Whoever's idea it was to install those planters in Bells Corners should be punished with mildly irritating things. #ugly #ottcity

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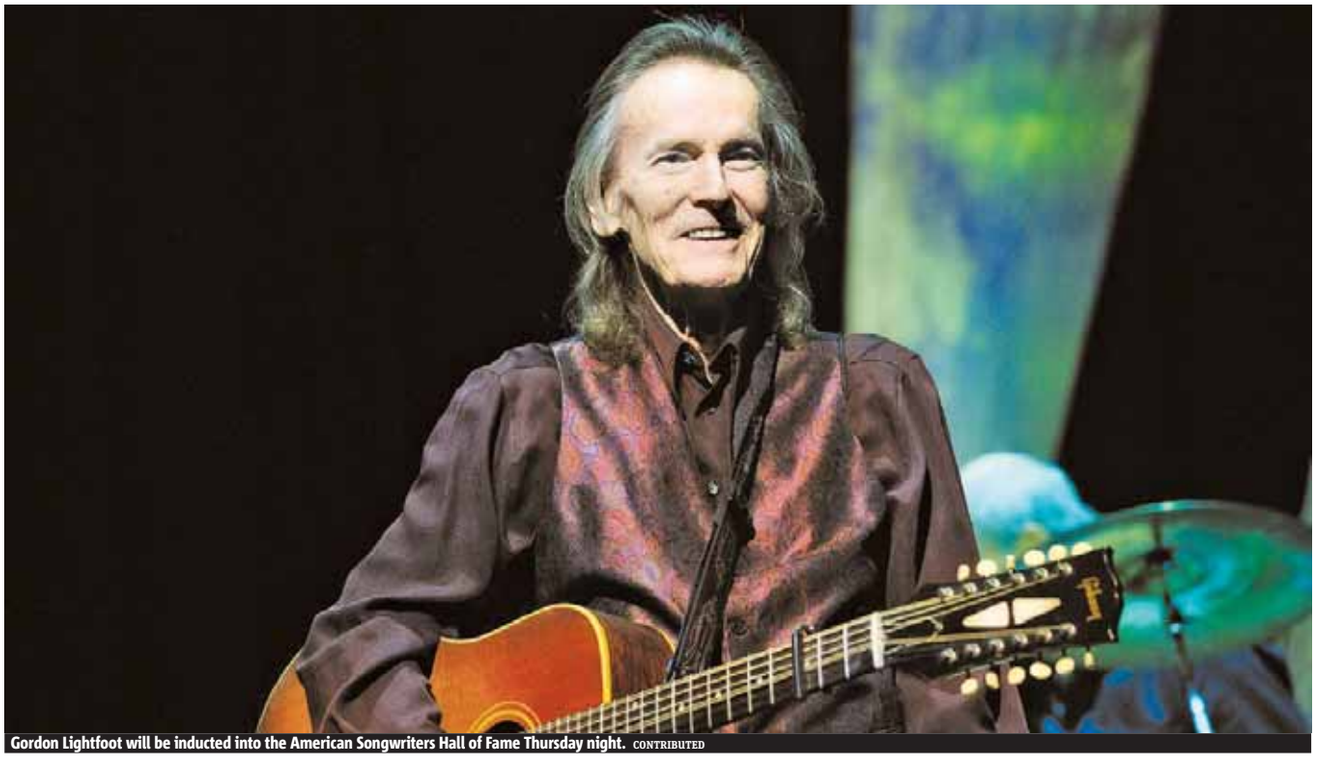
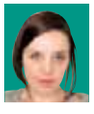


Gordon Lightfoot will be inducted into the American Songwriters Hall of Fame Thursday night. CONTRIBUTED

Canadian folk-music icon has a soft spot for nation's capital

Gordon Lightfoot. From playing the NAC when it was brand new, to an afternoon visit with Pierre and Margaret Trudeau, songwriter can't get enough of Ottawa



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jen Traplin
ottawa@metronews.ca

Gordon Lightfoot returns to the National Arts Centre stage this weekend, more than 40 years after performing at its opening ceremonies on June 2, 1969.

It's a day the Canadian music icon remembers fondly.

"I remember when it was a brand new place," he says. "And, every time I go there, it still looks the same; it looks brand new."

Lightfoot has been performing at the NAC ever since and has formed a strong bond with Canada's capital as a result.

"I have many fond memories of Ottawa — I love the city," he boasts.

"When we play there, we always have a great crowd, great response. I've also visited the city with my family. At one point, I had the opportunity to visit Pierre and Margaret Trudeau out at their place one afternoon," Lightfoot reminisces.

Thursday night, Lightfoot will be inducted into the American Songwriters Hall of Fame alongside fellow musical greats like Bob Seger, Don Schlitz, Harvey Schmidt and Tom Jones, a humbling honour for the folk icon.

"I've been in the business for 50 years. It's absolutely amazing. I never would have believed it myself. I've been very, very fortunate to continue," he says.

It's a fitting award as Lightfoot has no doubt been an inspiration for many songwriters throughout the years — a role he openly embraces, offering the same advice to up-and-comers today as he always has.

"I tell them all to look inside themselves and learn some chords and learn a little bit of theory and try and write their own songs, if that's possible," says Lightfoot. "In the meantime, they should learn lots of songs. They should listen to records and they should learn to play those songs and, by doing so, they will inspire themselves."

Details:

- When: Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m.
- Where: National Arts Centre (53 Elgin St.).
- Price: Tickets from $65 through the NAC Box Office

Scene in brief

Cruise honoured by Friars

Tom Cruise was in Manhattan to collect an award, and, yes, promote a movie. On Tuesday night, the actor received the fourth-ever Friars Club Entertainment Icon Award, placing him in the same company as Douglas Fairbanks, Cary Grant and Frank Sinatra. The evening was a toast, not a roast. Alec Baldwin presided at the Waldorf-Astoria, where speakers included such former co-stars as Cuba Gooding Jr. and Kevin Pollak. Robin Thicke and Corinne Rae Bailey were among the musical performers. Many had stories about working with Cruise and his impact on them.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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AKB48, whose singers are ranked by fans, becomes a hit in Japan; founder trying formula abroad

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Drunk and on drugs

It's just plain monkey business for Tom Cruise

When Tom Cruise signed on to play fictional hard-rock bad-boy Stacee Jaxx in the musical Rock of Ages, one thing was clear: His role would have to get a lot bigger.

"Why would I have him there if I'm not going to use him?" director Adam Shankman offers. "Using him less would've felt like a stunt, and he would've been underused."

Enter Justin Theroux, one of the film's three credited screenwriters, who previously wrote Tropic Thunder, featuring one of Cruise's more attention-grabbing comedic performances as Hollywood mogul Les Grossman. "The Stacee Jaxx character is very different from the Stacee Jaxx that was onstage," Theroux says, explaining that a lot of the change came from casting Cruise for the role. "It was more sort of a strung-out, druggie, drink-y character. And we basically made him weirder and more fun, we added a monkey who was his best friend, we did all that."

"This is the second time I've gotten to work with Tom, and I love working with him," Theroux says. Theroux admits that comedy in general is still a surprise coming from Cruise. "He doesn't need to do it. He's got such an amazing career as an action star and as a dramatic actor and all of that," he says. "Comedy's not something he really needs to do. But he does, and he's really effective at it because he approaches it like, 'I'm just going to play it straight.'"

With two movies under his belt now writing for the detail-oriented Cruise, Theroux admits he's developed quite a report with the actor.

NED EHRBAR

Director Adam Shankman, from left, Julianne Hough and Diego Boneta talk during the production of New Line Cinema's movie musical Rock of Ages. DAVID JAMES

Smoke and mirrors helps Rock of Ages hit high note

Directing again. Adam Shankman deals with fiscal challenges of taking a Broadway musical to the big screen

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

Being beyond-prolific as a producer hasn't left much time for Adam Shankman to devote to his directing career, but the man behind "Hairspray" is back behind the camera for Rock of Ages, a tribute to L.A.'s late-'80s rock scene. Not that bringing the property from Broadway to the screen was necessarily a simple prospect.

How have you been dealing with people finally seeing the finished film?

I've been really nervous about people getting it, and people seem to. The big question mark, of course, was Tom Cruise, and they're in love with him. Without sounding horrifyingly clichéd, in my head it's like I'm saying, "Mission accomplished!"

How was the actual production process for you?

To be completely honest, I had no schedule and I had very little money to make this giant thing. There's a lot of illusion going on in the movie. Russell (Brand) and Alec (Baldwin) were only shooting for two and a half weeks. Catherine Zeta-Jones was only there for four days. So it's all slight of hand and smoke and mirrors as to who's where and when. You know, two weeks after we've shot a scene, we'll shoot the other side of the room because so-and-so wasn't there. I had the same issue on Hairspray to a certain extent with the adults, but this one was a real math trick.

Does that have anything to do with why you're not doing another musical next?

My next movie is a much quieter, acting movie, so it should be a really beautiful respite for me from all the noise of making this movie. It's called This is Where I Leave You, from a book by the same title. It's about a dysfunctional family having to deal with each other in their house after their father dies. It's very funny, but it's also very emotional. That movie will have its own balancing act.

I take it you weren't really into the hard rock scene of the 1980s.

There was no way to escape it. It was just part of culture at that time. In the media, you were always just hearing about these arena guys throwing a f--ing couch out of a hotel window — and no consequences. Hotel rooms destroyed, rape and pillage, you know? It was all in good fun. It was the last time I remember the world feeling like there just weren't any consequences to your actions. I mean, other than in the gay community, it was nothing but casual sex with no AIDS. There was drug use up the wazoo with no rehab.

Without giving too much away, two male characters very surprisingly end up together in this film. Was that in the musical?

Yes, but this is the weird thing about that: It's in the musical, but when I was discussing it with the creators, they said, "No, no, no, they're not gay. They're just bros." And I said, "I know you created this, but you can't have two guys sing this song to each other and think that they're not gay." In the play they do ballet lifts. I was like, "How is that not gay?" They're like, "No, it's just the ultimate bro-mance." Honestly, I can't tell that story halfway. I have to go the full distance. It was a very odd moment for me because I couldn't understand how they didn't seem to have the same insight into what they had done. It was weird to me. I started laughing that I had another big man-on-man musical number, when I had it in Hairspray, too. I was like, "What am I doing? How does this keep popping up? And why do all my movies have a lot of hair?" They're big-wig shows.

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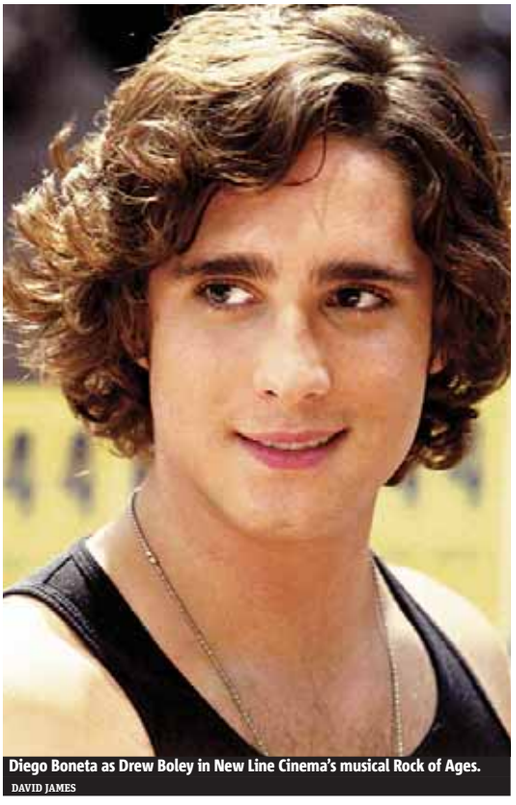
Mexican soap opera star gets shot in Hollywood

The newcomer.
Television actor Diego Boneta wasn't the only one to embrace a first time experience in the film Rock of Ages

NED EHRBAR
scene@metronews.ca

Though well-known in his native Mexico as a soap star and a singer, Diego Boneta is still a relative unknown in Hollywood.
But now that director Adam Shankman has tapped him for the romantic lead in Rock of Ages, that's likely to change. Here's some of the lessons Boneta learned making the film.

What is the best way to deal with being a newcomer is playing a newcomer?
"Being able to be part of really big tours before doing this movie, doing two albums — it definitely helped. But it was my first time doing a movie," Boneta tells Metro.
"I mean, I couldn't have asked for a better debut.
I'm very humbled to be in this project, and it was a great learning experience."


Diego Boneta as Drew Boley in New Line Cinema's musical Rock of Ages.
DAVID JAMES

What were your memories of the year 1987?

Malin Akerman:
"Back then, I don't know about you but I was wearing the horrible fluorescent T-shirts, acid-wash jeans.
"It was really, really ugly. I like the '80s, though. I think it's pretty sexy with, like, girls in high jeans and the rock T-shirts or leather — anything leather is always great."

Justin Theroux:
"Oh, man. Endless frustration with girls.
"I remember hairspray and lots of Dippity-do. My first record was Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap by AC/DC... To me, the '80s were just kind of fun memories because nothing's really gone wrong yet in your life, so all the music is very nostalgic for me, too."

Adam Shankman:
"In 1987, I was actually in New York.
"I had just dropped out of school, I was a waiter working at El Rio Grande on Third Avenue, I was starting to do musical theater... I was going to a lot of clubs. I was a suspenders and skinny tie guy. It was horrifying. I freely admit to the ugliness of it."

If you have to learn to play guitar, do it with Tom Cruise?
"Tom and I spent a lot of time together because we were both learning how to play guitar, and we were learning from the same guitar teacher," Boneta says. "We had our jam sessions, and in those jam sessions, Tom would always be very surprised and interested by how you make very similar choices when you're acting and when you're recording a song.
When you're recording you're like, 'OK there's different ways to end this chorus or this verse. You can go vibrato, you can go up, you can go down.' You ask yourself very similar questions when you're in a scene and when you're in the studio."

Did it help not being the only first-timer in the film?
"The cool thing about this movie is that we all shared something in common, which was our first time doing something," he says. "It was my first movie, it was Tom (Cruise)'s first time singing, Alec (Baldwin)'s first time singing. We all had a first time in common.
Tom wanted me to do just as good as him Catherine (Zeta-Jones) wanted Julianne (Hough) to do just as good as her."

Do you have a go-to karaoke song to blow the director away?
"I've been to karaoke bars, and yeah, my friends and I have a blast," Boneta admits. "Do I have a go-to song? Superstition, by Stevie Wonder, which is very unexpected from me. But I can rock it out. Darren Criss from Glee and I once sang it at Rock of Ages director Adam Shankman's birthday, and it was fun."

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Colin Farrell fully embraces demands of starring role in Total Recall remake

Summer blockbuster. Rising star and cast had a blast shooting sequel to 1990 sci-fi thriller in Toronto

TREVOR PARKER
scenel@metronews.ca

Colin Farrell stars in Columbia Pictures remake of Total Recall which opens in theatres August 3. COLUMBIA PICTURES

As eager as he may be for audiences to enjoy his work in the upcoming big-budget Total Recall remake, Colin Farrell wants to state upfront that there's one area in which his version wouldn't dare to compete with the 1990 Schwarzenegger original: "I noticed a lack of one-line jokes," he laughs. "No one does one-liners like Arnie!"

The Recall update is set to be a more sober, serious take on the tale of an oblivious man in the near future who tampers with his memories and ends up uncovering a hidden past and personality.

Farrell says he was at first reluctant to leap into a production that encompassed such a humongous scope, one that overran Toronto streets as well as occupying several cavernous soundstages at the city's new Pinewood studio facility while shooting last year.

"It was terrifying," he admits. "I've been quite content creatively, over the last six or seven years, doing films that were smaller in budgetary scale. It scares the s—t out of me, the idea of being in a really, really big film, it really does.

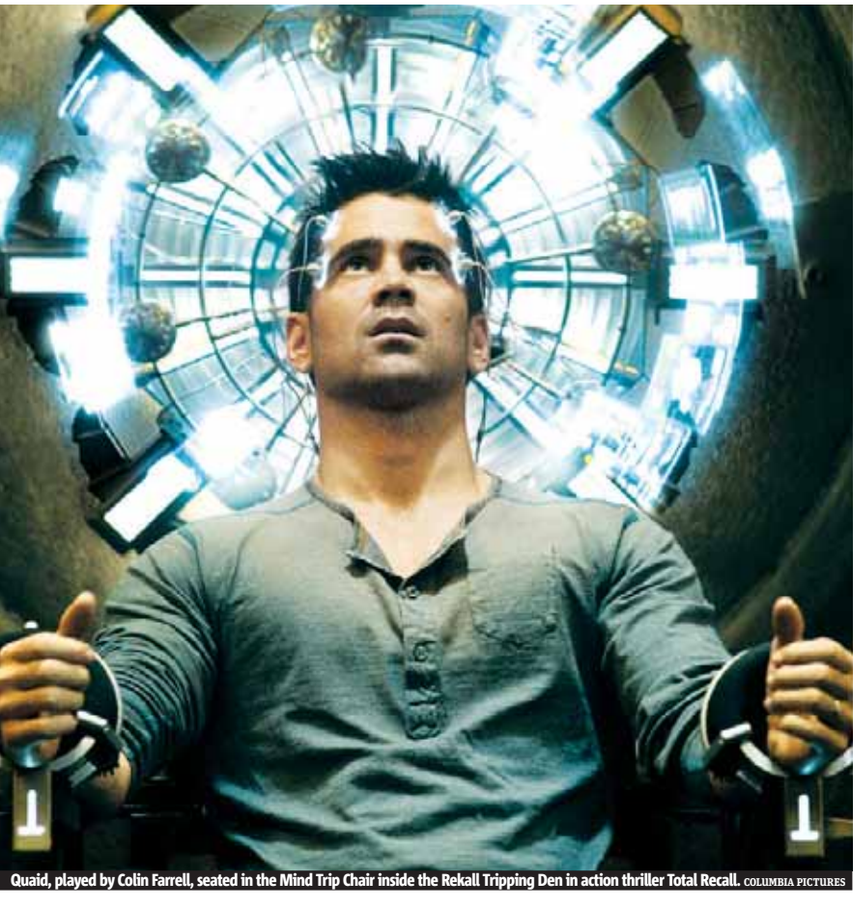
"But I'm open to it. Initially, I responded to the script and I responded to the idea of a man named Quaid who just really didn't know who he was. It brings up the questions: What makes a person what they are? What makes us all? Can you reclaim, can you change? So meeting Len (Wiseman, director) and seeing his concept artwork and the world he was going to create … I came away from meeting him saying, 'I'd really love to do this, I hope I can!'"

Actress Jessica Biel appears in the film as capable and sexy freedom fighter Melina. Of her role, Biel says, "Melina's grown up very much this underground soldier, and this very strong, empowered person."

Farrell and Biel are chatting with members of the media after a lengthy and particularly punishing day of staging Total Recall's extensive zero-gravity simulations. The action saw the pair trussed up by wires and hung upside down for hours at a time while blasting away with futuristic firearms.

"It's actually so physically painful that there's nothing to do but laugh," Biel says. "You just get completely giddy and it gets to a point where you feel like your eyeballs are about to pop out. We've done our best to laugh through it."

Biel goes on to say that she had much more fun working on her fight scene with co-star Kate Beckinsale, who plays the villainous Lori. She found the scene interesting "because (Kate and I) never fight with women. You're always fighting a monster or thug or something. You never fight a beautiful, sinewy long haired woman. I think it'll look really cool and aggressive. The only issue that we had during the fight was that Kate's hair kept getting stuck in my jacket!"



Quaid, played by Colin Farrell, seated in the Mind Trip Chair inside the Rekall Tripping Den in action thriller Total Recall. COLUMBIA PICTURES

The remastering of a science-fiction classic

A new vision.
Director Len Wiseman combines stunning visuals with a compelling mystery

TREVOR PARKER
scenel@metronews.ca

With remakes of beloved titles hitting multiplexes on a seemingly weekly basis, it's a tricky balancing act for those filmmakers to attract new fans as well as satisfying devotees of the source material.

It's a battle with which the director of the new Total Recall, Len Wiseman, is well aware: "It was a challenge. The Recall script came to me, out of the blue, and I was just taken by the direction that it went in. Of course, there's going to be a side that says, 'Why even do it if it's going to be that much different?' The other group says, 'If there's nothing new, nothing original, why bother?' With all of that out there, I just very selfishly make the movie for myself, and hopefully other people like it."

Wiseman's Recall is certainly adopting a fresh perspective. Gone is the Mars setting of the first film, replaced by a divided earth and a massive tunnel between two nations, bored directly through the centre of the globe.

Production designer Patrick Tatopoulos describes the two sides, with the United Federation of Britain, home of the ruling class, being "bright and clean, with beautiful misty skies. Everything is pristine.

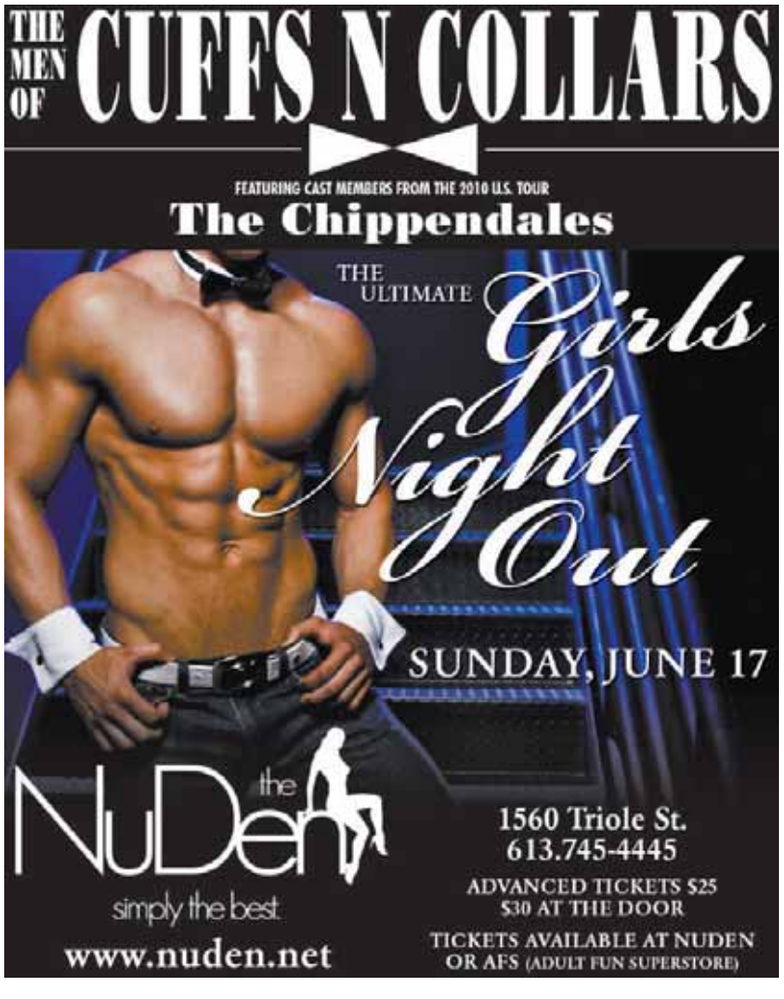
In New Asia, the hardscrabble home of lead character Quaid (played by Colin Farrell), Tatopoulos says, "It feels like old and new technology together. It'll be really grungy. We shot with 350 (extras), so it really feels like a living city. The costumes are going to be outrageous."

As elaborate as the environment and visuals are, Wiseman hopes the core story of hunting for one's identity will be his Recall's most compelling aspect. "There's a ton of action," he says, "but action is completely dead if there's no driving emotion or mystery behind it. What I love about this project the most, I love a mystery anyways, but when the mystery is about the character himself. I'm always drawn to that, like The Fugitive, or Bourne or Blade Runner. Going through the action, there are puzzle pieces within; as Quaid is trying to find out the ultimate mystery, which is, 'Who am I?' That's a big part of it, because otherwise it's just a bunch of explosions and expensive effects."

Wiseman also stood fast against pressure to have Recall released in 3-D. "I'm not against 3-D. It just didn't work with what kind of film I was trying to make."

A family affair

Total Recall marks the third occasion that Len Wiseman has directed his wife, actress Kate Beckinsale. "Kate's been in action movies before, but never as the villain," Wiseman says. "I love the idea." For this Recall, Beckinsale appears as the duplicitous Lori, the role played by Sharon Stone in the 1990 original.



Skies the limit for Jessup as he bags bigger role

Turning 18. Canadian actor's Falling Skies character — Ben Mason — is not only growing up, he's finally getting a gun and a taste of the action

June is a big month for Canadian actor Connor Jessup, to put it lightly. First, he's finishing high school, and later this month he turns 18. On top of all that, Jessup gets to celebrate the second season premiere of the science-fiction series Falling Skies, in which his character, Ben Mason, plays a much bigger — and more gunplay-filled — role than in the first season.

It must be stressful trying to juggle promoting a TV show and finishing high school.

Quoted

"I like to describe it as puberty on steroids — he doesn't know what's happening to him."

Connor Jessup, Falling Skies, explaining the changes his character is going through

Yeah. It's less stressful than trying to juggle shooting the show and finishing high school, which was basically impossible to do. So now I'm suffering for the time I spent shooting, trying to catch up with everything. I graduate the day before my 18th birthday, so it's very exciting. Which is also three days after the show airs, so it's a very packed week. June's exciting.

Your character gets a lot more to do on the show this year.

Last season, Ben was the guy who stayed back and didn't go out on any fights. He was more passive, more bookish. He was less involved in the actual action of the show. Between seasons one and two, there's a time gap of three months, and in that time he's become a fighter. He's become much more aggressive. He's become very angry because he thinks his dad is gone and probably dead, he's lost a lot of people in these various battles. He's become much colder and more distant. When the season takes off, he's fighting. He's very angry at the aliens, but a lot of that anger is a manifestation of his own fear and confusion. I like to describe it as puberty on steroids — he doesn't know what's happening to him, there's a lot happening to his body, to his emotions, and he's trying to deal with them through angst, violence and aggressiveness. But also this season Ben plays a much more central role in the mystery of the show.

Toronto-born Connor Jessup is happy that his Falling Skies character is getting more exciting things to do next season. BENNY HADDAD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

What was your reaction when you heard how much more you'd have to do?

It happened in stages. We found out that the show was getting picked up for a second season in July, almost a few weeks after it aired, but I didn't hear anything after that about what the season was about or what was happening, until September, which was only three or four weeks before we started shooting. So it's mid-September and I get a phone call from one of our executive producers and directors, Greg Beeman. I love him a lot, but he has a very succinct way of talking. He gets right to the point. He just said, "You're going to be an action hero. Buff up" and hung up, pretty much. He left me with that. I didn't know what it meant, I didn't know the context. All I knew was that I was going to be involved in the action stuff, and I had three and a half weeks to go to the gym.

Aside from a lot of time in the gym, you had to do some weapons training as well.

Last year, I was always very envious of the other cast members with their AK-47s and their pistols and grenade launchers and all those things. I was always kind of hoping that I could use one. I always thought that it was a distant possibility, but sure enough my character, beyond just using one, always has one now. So we had to go through weapons training before we started shooting, which is basically just a day of learning how to handle weapons, be safe with them because we fire a lot of blanks in the show. You get to pick your weapon in the show, so the guns end up reflecting the characters.

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Arquette making divorce official

David Arquette, after nearly two years of separation, has finally filed for divorce from Courteney Cox, according to TMZ.

The papers, however, list the official date of separation as December 31, 2011.

Arquette apparently signed the papers in March but held off on submitting them until Tuesday, which would have been the couple's 13th anniversary. Arquette cited irreconcilable differences in the filing, and though he's asking for joint legal and physical custody of their eight-year-old daughter, Coco, he has not asked for spousal or child support.

Arquette also plans to represent himself in the proceeding.

David Arquette

Richards in splitsville

The apparent romantic rekindling between Richie Sambora and Denise Richards is now off, it turns out, according to Celebuzz.

"They're done," a source says. "They've always stayed friends through everything they've gone through. Sambora and Richards first dated in 2006 after splitting from their respective exes, Heather Locklear and Charlie Sheen.

Denise Richards

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Lindsay Lohan ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan escapes a charge, earns a babysitter

THE WORD
Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

This Lindsay Lohan car crash is turning out to be especially hard to look away from.

Not only did the actress lie about who was driving, but now police have confiscated a plastic bottle full of alcohol from the rented Porsche's trunk, reports TMZ. Luckily, police have decided not to cite her with an open container violation, and she reportedly was not under the influence at the time of the crash. Lohan's employers, however, aren't willing to look the other way. The producers of her new Elizabeth Taylor biopic for Lifetime, Liz & Dick, decided to stop taking chances and hired her a driver.

"Lifetime will lose a ton of money if Lindsay doesn't finish filming Liz and Dick, plus they don't want anything to happen to her on their watch," a source tells PerezHilton.com. "So it was decided it would be cheaper to get her a driver. This is a make-or-break moment for Lindsay."

Nice start, guys. But we recommend adding a special ops team, a creative pharmacist, a lazy river and the fluffiest basket of kittens L.A. has to offer if you truly want to contain this girl.

Twitter

@rosemcgowan
I'd pay big money to watch Ken dolls in a fight club. Which is weird.

@goldiehawn
Off to Hungary with my Sis to discover our roots! Fun!!

@GeorgeMichael
Nothing to rant about, damn, must watch the news.....

@SteveMartinToGo
I just noticed a news item that says the Nobel Prize has shrunk from 1.4 million to 1.2. What's the point of going on?

Leonardo DiCaprio

DiCaprio coupling up with Heatherton

Leonardo DiCaprio appears to be serious about his latest girlfriend, Victoria's Secret model Erin Heatherton, whom he's been dating long-distance since December, according to Us Weekly.

Though he followed up filming The Great Gatsby in Australia by heading straight to New Orleans for Quentin Tarantino's Django Unchained, DiCaprio has been making more time for Heatherton lately, hitting the town in New York.

They were spotted fawning over one another at the restaurant Candela earlier this week.

And just last week, the pair hit up New York hotspot the Darby.

"They showed up hand-in-hand," a source says. "They were acting like a couple all night."

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3

LIFE

Fashion Flash

Jeanne Beker honoured with award

After 27 years as host of FashionTelevision, Jeanne Beker was presented with the 2012 Canadian Award of Distinction at this year's Banff World Media Festival. Previous winners of the award include Howie Mandel, Eric McCormack and Kim Cattrall. "It's sort of one of those awards where you sort of wonder, 'Does this mean I've arrived or does this mean it's time to leave?'" Beker said with a laugh during a recent interview.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the Web

Louvre Museum opens storied hallways to Ferragamo fashion show, making history

Making a splash

After months of cloud and rain, you may feel self-conscious when showing off your sun-deprived body for the first time. However, covering up with a drab or unflattering swimsuit isn't going to help. Summer is your time to shine, so we picked the top eye-catching swimsuits that will ensure you make a jaw-dropping entrance, wherever you go.

ROMINA McGUINNESS
romina.mcguinness@metro.lu

Lazy beach day: Seafolly

Tea Rose bustier bra in coral & siren pant in coral
$85 & $72
seafolly.com

Beach date: Zimmermann

Savannah floral-print strapless swimsuit
top: $330
net-a-porter.com

Pool party: H&M

Turquoise/patterned bikini top and bottom
top: $4.95 & bottom: $4.95
hm.com

Girly get together: Topshop

Blue Rio Print One Piece swimsuit
$68
topshop.com

Cocktail party: ASOS

Bold Tropical Cut Out Suit
$52.19
asos.com

Buff, bold and beach ready

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News in London

"I think sex sells for women also," says model Matthew Terry. Of course he would say that, being one of the current Calvin Klein Bold Underwear Adonises. You'll no doubt have borne witness to his seductive form in bright, 'bold' trunks stretched taut, abdominals gleaming, hair slicked back — the body perfect emissary of the global super brand.

The body and look that we so admire with either lust or envy is the result of an Olympian-esque training regime:

A healthy start

"I get up and exfoliate my back and neck and I wash with Panoxyl face wash — I use this twice daily because I have slightly oily skin."

He is human after all. Terry adds, "For breakfast I eat an English muffin with peanut butter (high in calories but filled with the same monounsaturated fats as olive oil) followed by an apple or banana and a cup of decaffeinated green tea."

Warm weather workout

"I try to hit all the muscle groups and recently I've been randomizing my workouts." In layman's terms that means short bursts of exercise per repetition, repeated ten times.

Here's the drill: Bicep curls with 35 pound dumbbells; leg presses with a weight of 280 or 290 pounds to feel the burn; 20 leg raises to 90 degrees and down.

The Pennsylvanian-born model says, "I drink plenty of water to avoid muscle cramps and I do the exercises for a maximum of two hours and a minimum of one hour."

Bear in mind that Terry goes to the gym four times a week and might just "pump out 50 push ups on a day." Don't we all?

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Twitter

JEANNE SPACE
Jeanne Beker
life@metronews.ca

IN THIS HECTIC MODERN WORLD, TWITTER HAS BECOME A COOL AND SUCCINCT WAY OF COMMUNICATING. IT ALLOWS ME TO BE ACCESSIBLE, INSTANTLY SPEAK MY MIND, AND CONNECTS ME WITH ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE. WHETHER IT'S A FASHION QUESTION OR YOU JUST WANT TO COMMENT ON LIFE'S BIGGER PICTURE, I'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

@Jeanne_Beker: Question: If YOU were ever to be honoured with a big lifetime achievement award — what would you hope it would ultimately be for?

@blingedout
spreading love, life, happiness & hope would be my greatest lifetime achievement award.. What about you??

@classictrash
as an activist for the LGBT community

@15000lives
having a positive impact that has improved many lives all over the world.

@coadygallant
for being active in Gay rights and equality in the world!

@kathyinbc
Extraordinary kindness.

@Jeanne_Beker: With fellow award recipient, the comedy genius Chuck Lorre

@Jeanne_Beker: Drooling over @KaraRossNY python bags @KellyClaman showroom. Divine!!!

The Kit

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Montreal

Stephanie Couillard

Sales representative

Age: 23

What she's wearing:
Joe Fresh jacket, Mango knit sweater, Rich & Skinny jeans, Aldo booties.

Her inspiration:
"Lately my sartorial outlook is 'less is more.' I'm keeping it simple. Knits, jeans and booties are definitely my go-to look."

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THE KIT PHOTOBLOGGER: STEPHANIE BORIDY, LECHEAPCESTCHIC.COM

SPECIAL INFORMATION FEATURE

Honour thy father with Beau's beer

Success story. Beau's All Natural Brewing Company hosting a barbecue this Sunday

JEFF O'REILLY
For Metro

Happy Father's Day from Steve and Tim Beauschesne. JORDAN BAMFORTH/FOR METRO

Come and listen to a story
about a man named Tim,
His factory closed down and
things were looking mighty
slim,
When he asked the family
what in heavens should we
do,
Convert the old property and
then start to brew.

Beer that is ... and it's won
gold ... awards a plenty.

Well the next thing you know
Beau's is sold across the land,
Things are going well, even
better than they planned,
Brewing up a storm and they
still find some time to say,
Join us for a barbecue and
Happy Father's Day.

(To the tune of the Beverly Hillbillies theme song)

While Vankleek Hill may seem like an unlikely spot for a success story to begin, it's certainly no Bugtussle (original homestead of the Beverly Hillbillies) despite many jokes of how long it may take you to get there on a tractor.

Many of you may be aware of Beau's All Natural Brewing Company, but few are familiar with the story of how the brewery came to be. Patriarch Tim Beauschesne owned and operated a leather factory for years and kept his family fed, but the times they were a changin' and with the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement he could no longer remain competitive and had to close the business down.

On a fateful visit to Toronto to see his son, Steve, the two speculated on what the future could hold over a couple of beers and the answer was, of course, right under their noses. A gutsy plan was created to turn the factory into a brewery and make a go of it in the highly competitive, but emerging craft beer market.

Less than six years later, we now see a thriving family-owned brewery as the awards and accolades continue to pour in (including recent golden victories at the Canadian Brewing Awards and Mondial de la Bière).

Their good nature is as 100 per cent organic as their beers, which makes them all that much easier to root for — plus there's no chance they are going to pack up and head to Californy.

To celebrate Father's Day — and Ontario Craft Beer Week (June 17-23) — Beau's is launching four new beers at a casual community barbecue at its brewery.

One beer in particular really caught my eye as it is completely unique, which is almost unexpectedly expected from the Beau's team.

Venskab (pronounced Venskabe — the Danish word for "friendship") is a cross-Atlantic collaboration with celebrated "gypsy" (ex-Carlsberg and current Nørrebro Bryghus) brewer Anders Kissmeyer and the process behind this beer is mind-boggling.

Based on a Belgian-style Tripel, the beer is delicately hopped and seasoned before being conditioned on Southbrook Organic Icewine soaked oak chips and aged for three months in Canadian white wine barrels. And to finish things off, Japanese Yuzu fruit is added before a champagne yeast is used to bottle condition until someone is lucky enough to open it and release months of hard work and creativity into your glass to enjoy. But hurry, this limited release (600ml bottles for $18.85) is only available at the brewery and online at bybo.ca.

Beau's Venskab (9.6 per cent alcohol by volume) pours a slightly hazy, opaque bright apricot colour with a tight, white foam cap. The aromas are intriguing with a spicy yeast and slightly boozy nose dominating.

There are complex tastes of thick, fruity pale malts, mango, grapefruit, white grapes, clove esthers, pepper, and sweet Belgian Candi sugar. The alcohol tinge of the icewine influence on this strong ale is noticeable and provides a dryness and bite with a full-bodied, thick coating mouth feel and a slightly astringent long, lingering finish. This beer deserves to be sipped and savoured — it is really something to behold.

The Beau's Father's Day barbecue is scheduled for Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Beau's Brewery (10 Terry Fox Dr., Vankleek Hill, Ont.)

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All things cheese

CURD ON THE STREET
Vanessa Simmons
For Metro

Cheeseheads of all ages take in The Great Canadian Cheese Festival in Picton last weekend. VANESSA SIMMONS/FOR METRO

Close to 4,000 cheese lovers assembled last weekend in Picton, Prince Edward County, to celebrate their love for curd at The Great Canadian Cheese Festival. A plethora of more than 125 different types of cheese showcasing our nation's best from P.E.I. to Vancouver Island were ripe and ready.

Joining them in the Artisan Cheese & Fine Food Fair were all the best complements to cheese — artisan foods of crackers, breads, charcuterie, jams, chutneys, jellies, honey, and fine wines, ciders, and craft beer.

Congratulations to Ottawa's own Michael Blackie for sharing top honours for the second year in a row, recognized by the People's Choice Award at the Cooks & Curds Gala for his Highland Blue Cubic Melt.

Family day Sunday was a full house, with more cheese lovin' from folks of all ages. I wandered at a more leisurely pace to nibble on yet more cheese, take in the milking demo, photograph Yvette the water buffalo in the dairy farm, and chat with cheese maker friends before presenting the Taste of Quebec tutored session, showcasing the best of la belle province.

Thanks to Savour Ottawa member Maggie Paradis, of Fromagerie les Folies Bergères, for the spotlight goat milk cheese on my plate — La Sorcière Bien Aimée. Made on April 24, advanced planning made sure it was perfectly "a point."

Special mention goes to Major Craig's Chutney, michaelsdolce, and Yummy Cookies for making the trip to PEC to participate in the Taste of Ottawa pavilion. With so much cheesy activity and so little time, more highlights of the "Best of the Fest" can be found on my blog at savvycompany.ca/vanessa.

Hats off to all the hard-working staff, volunteers, cheese makers, artisan food producers, winemakers, presenters, chefs, celebrities, supporters, and, in particular, all you cheese lovers who attended the festival for making this the best celebration of Canadian curd yet.

FOR MORE, SEE SAVVYCOMPANY.CA.

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Venture OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Ready to meet new meat? Say hello to cutting edge of carnivore world

The economy has prompted cost-conscious restaurant chefs to spearhead creative — and often less costly — new cuts of beef.

And when they do that, it usually doesn't take long for those cuts to move off the menu and into butcher and grocery shops.

To help get you grill with some of the newly popular cuts of beef, here are recipes for two meats on the cutting edge.

1. In a large bowl, stir together the oil, brown sugar, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 teaspoon pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, smoked paprika, cumin and cayenne.

2. Place the steaks in the bowl and massage the mixture into the meat, making sure to coat all sides. Allow to sit at room temperature for 30 minutes.

3. Heat the grill to medium-high.

Ingredients

Start to finish: 45 minutes

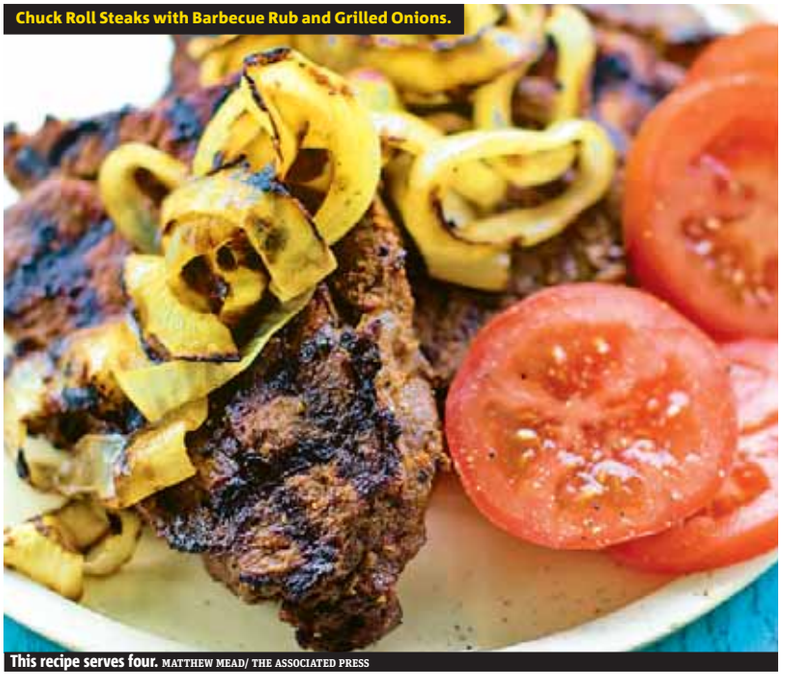
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp brown sugar
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1/4 tsp cayenne
- Four 12-oz chuck roll steaks
- 1 large sweet onion, cut into 4 thick slices

4. Season the onion slices with salt and pepper. Grill the onions without flipping them for 6 to 8 minutes, or until charred and tender. Grill the steaks for 4 to 5 minutes per side for medium-rare.

5. Remove the steaks from the heat and allow to rest for 8 to 10 minutes before serving. Serve with the grilled onions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chuck Roll Steaks with Barbecue Rub and Grilled Onions.



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Book of the week

Rethink how you cook your meat

In Charred & Scruffed, chef Adam Perry Lang produces layers of flavour by using new techniques that range from roughing up meat and vegetables ("scruffing") to cooking directly on hot coals ("clinching") to constantly turning and moving the meat while cooking ("hot potato"). Meanwhile, his board dressings and finishing salts build upon delicious meat juices.

The new techniques result in recipes such as Leg of Lamb, Clinched-and-Planked Shrimp, High-Low Boneless Rib Eye, Scruffed Carbonara Potatoes, Crispy Moonshine Onion Rings and more. METRO

Fennel-Rubbed Denver Steaks with Blue Cheese

1. Heat the grill to medium-high.

2. In a spice grinder or using a mortar and pestle, grind the fennel seeds. Sprinkle the ground seeds over both sides of the steaks, then rub into the meat. Season the steaks with salt and pepper. Season the fennel bulb quarters with salt and black pepper.

3. Soak a crumpled paper towel with oil. Clasping the paper towel with tongs, oil the grates of the grill. Grill the fennel quarters for 10 minutes, turning once during cooking. Grill the steaks for 4 to 6 minutes per side for medium-rare. Remove the steaks from the heat and allow to rest for 8 to 10 minutes.

4. To serve, arrange 2 fennel quarters on each plate. Squeeze some fresh lemon juice over them, then top with a sprinkle of blue cheese. Serve with the steak. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

Start to finish: 30 minutes

- 1 tsp fennel seeds
- 4 Denver cut steaks, 3/4-inch thick (2 lbs total)
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 2 fennel bulbs, white parts only, cut into quarters
- Vegetable or canola oil
- Wedges of lemon
- 1/4 cup crumbled blue cheese

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Everything old is new again

Saturated, over-dyed carpets create a modern look. These can add as much impact to the floors as art does to walls. Ryegrass Rug, $2,298 ANTHROPOLOGIE.COM

Faded carpets take on a sun-bleached look for a soft worn look. Ottoman Vintage #14330 Rug, $180. ECARPETGALLERY.COM

Carpet trends. Faded, chopped and dyed rugs make for some pretty artful floors

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

The look of handmade is everywhere in design and acts as a great juxtaposition to modern furnishings and art in a room.

Without exception, the floors are the most ignored part of any decor scheme. Why not add uniqueness to your space by adding a vintage rug?

The world is full of old, tattered, outdated carpets and what better way to recycle than to reinvent them into something hip and attractive?

The earth-friendly trend is to reuse and revamp worn and outdated rugs into something fresh and artful for our rooms.

Second-life rugs can be bleached for a sun-kissed romantic look or over-dyed with rich saturated Andy Warhol-style acidic colours. Damaged rugs can be cut into large pieces and sewn back together for a patchwork of pattern in a room.

Too bad the design world can't figure out how to reinvent the rust velour recliner.

Colour-matched remnants of kilim carpets create a handmade and casual look for the floor. Patchwork Kilim Rug, $464 HOMESAV.COM

Unroll a little art

Rug rules

If the room is in desperate need of colour or pattern, then choose a glass or Lucite coffee table to show off your rug.

Too much colour for your liking? A wooden table or large ottoman will help break it up.

Use a rug to define an area in a room or hallway. Two or three short runners can break up a long hallway space and shorten the overall look while a collection of layered rugs can be easily moved around for a variety of looks.

In small spaces try to match the tone (light and dark) of the rug to the floor; it visually makes the space look larger if both match.

Patterned carpets are great for high-traffic areas as they show less wear and tear than a solid colour.

Don't excuse using outdoor woven rugs inside to take the wear and tear of a busy space.

Sweet dreams

Interested in a three-way in your bed?

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Hello Charles,
What is the three-sheet bed-making process and why is this important? Why do we need three sheets?
Curious

Hello Curious!
The three-sheet bed method is an older method that was used particularly when wool blankets were on the bed and these items were rough against the skin.

The third sheet covers the blanket and gets tucked in just like all of the other sheets on the bed. This third sheet made the bed softer and nicer so that you didn't feel the rough wool against your skin, and more importantly you didn't dirty the wool blanket, as washing it was very difficult.

If the bed had a duvet, it was then folded in a "three-fold" at the end of the bed and only used on very cold nights.

Although not common today, when you see a bed made in this fashion, and sleep in a bed made with three sheets, it is fabulous, luxurious and such a treat!

Lastly, often the "third sheet" had a family crest or initials in the middle of the sheet, which visually looks breathtaking.

HAVE A QUESTION? SEND AN EMAIL TO ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

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Blur the line between inside and outside

French doors. Summer is here, so why not let in loads of light and give yourself a view?

With warm air, lush gardens and inviting patios in season, you're sure to be stepping outside as often as possible. Why not refresh the entry into your outdoor oasis by installing beautiful French doors?

Host Amy Matthews helps homeowners tackle projects themselves on Sweat Equity which airs weeknights at 11 p.m. ET/8 p.m. PT on DIY Network Canada. Get inspired by Amy's knowledge and expertise and see below for some tips to take on the French door project yourself this weekend.

Basic Overview

French doors are a lovely option for a patio entranceway as they give a visual connection between indoor and outdoor spaces. Light is able to flow inside and you have a beautiful view of your patio and garden.

French doors can be used with a retractable screen door system if desired which is popular for patios to keep bugs at bay. Blinds can also be installed to provide some additional privacy if preferred — these can be easily opened when it's time to let in the light.

Planning

French doors need more space than sliding doors so be sure to plan for space around the door swing before getting started. There is the choice of both in-swing and out-swing fittings so you can select the option that works best for your space. Measure the width of the door and use this to calculate the radius of the door's swing by starting at the pivot point to ensure you have enough space.

Also measure the jamb depth of the opening as you will want to buy a door that fits inside this depth. Standard French door styles are available to fit standard door openings and manufacturers usually also offer custom options for older, more unique spaces.

Installation Tips

Buying a pre-hung French door kit will make installation much easier as it eliminates many steps. Look to your neighbourhood home improvement store for options.

Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines and be sure that each door is hung plum inside the door frame so that they close tightly. Also look for French patio doors with a three-point locking system as it provides additional security by locking the doors to the head jamb and sill instead of simply locking the two doors together. Ensure that the swing path of the French doors is clear of any furniture or tools before beginning the installation.

Got curious neighbours? Just install blinds for some additional privacy. ISTOCK IMAGES

Once complete, grab that cup of coffee, step through your beautiful new entranceway, sit down and relax. Whether you're going inside or outside you're sure to admire your handiwork.

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Hostas are a great multi-use option for growers who like flowers that taste as good as they look. DEAN FOSDICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plants pretty enough to eat

Gardening ideas. Sweet potatoes for decoration? Some flowers and veggies do double duty

Sweet potato vines decorating window boxes? Blueberry plants prized more for their foliage than their fruit?

Some flowers and vegetables are as appealing in the home garden as they are on the menu.

"We generally are interested in something to eat when we grow vegetables. In some cases, however, certain vegetable cultivars have been bred and selected for their ornamental characteristics rather than their food quality," said Dan Gill, a Louisiana State University AgCenter horticulturist.

Ornamental sweet potatoes are a prime example, he said.

"They've been really popular in the last 15 or 20 years," Gill said. "The early ones can easily cover five square feet. Plant a few in a container and they will fill it in."

Sweet potatoes are vining plants, members of the morning glory family, so they work equally well as low-growing bedding plants, as ground cover, on climbing arbours or trailing from hanging baskets, he said.

"They can be aggressive, however. Breeders are developing hybrids that are less vigorous and that play well in mixed beds with other plants," Gill said. "They do produce an edible crop but they're not that tasty. Gardeners like them more for their coloured foliage."

Blueberries are another great multi-use option, said Scott NeSmith, a research horticulturist at the University of Georgia-Griffin campus.

"We're seeking a variety of novel blueberry types, with (an) emphasis on berry colours, plant shape and form, fall colour, dwarfness and other interesting traits," he said. "We want consumers to surround themselves with flavourful beauty."

Just as there are ornamental fruits and vegetables, so, too, are there edible flowers and garden beauties that provide culinary treats.

Some nominees: Hostas (blooms), daylilies (tubers, buds), dandelions (flowers when picked young), marigolds ("poor man's saffron"), begonias.

Also there are sunflowers (buds), yucca (petals, fruit), lavender (blooms), nasturtium (leaves, petals).

A couple of cautions, however, about adding flowers to the menu: "Never use flowers for garnishing unless you know for certain they are edible," said Gill, adding, "Some flowers, like the plants that produce them, are poisonous."

Also, do not eat flowers that may have been sprayed with pesticides or picked along roadsides. Wash flowers thoroughly before plating up, and eat them in small quantities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Garden of goodness

"We want consumers to surround themselves with flavourful beauty."

Scott NeSmith, a research horticulturist at the University of Georgia-Griffin campus

Start digging and eating

Appetizing ornamentals:

- **Go green.** Kale, Swiss chard, parsley, chives, rosemary, sage and mustards.
- **Spice it up.** Black peppers, chili, sweet peppers and hops. The latter "beautifully and vigorously cover an arbour or fence, and the young strings taste quite good," said Rose Marie Nichols McGee, owner of Nichols Garden Nursery in Albany, Ore.
- **Berry good ideas.** Elderberries and strawberries.
- **Vegetable medley.** Eggplant, squash, zucchini, cabbage, artichokes and beets.

Ornamental sweet potatoes. DEAN FOSDICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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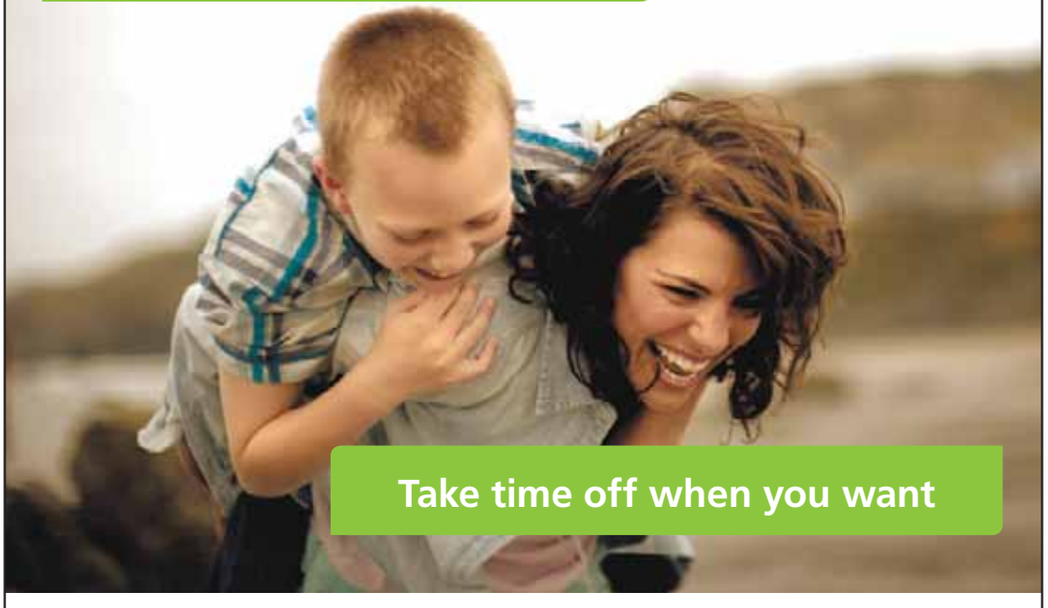

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FATHER'S DAY
Thursday, June 14, 2012

Gizmos & Gadgets

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Forget the cologne and ties, true love is shown through technology! Here are some of the best tech gadgets guaranteed to put a smile on your dad's face this Father's Day.

Samsung Galaxy SIII — $149.99 with contract

A smartphone with some serious technology! Control your phone with your voice or send video files up to 1GB in size by simply tapping it against another Galaxy SIII phone. The front camera also tracks your eye movement, knowing when to dim the screen and when to keep it bright, even if you aren't physically holding the device. One of the hottest smartphones of the summer!

Ballistic Hard Core Case — $49.99

Ultimate protection for your smartphone. Ballistic cases have five layers of protection to guard against drops, fingerprints, scratches, and dust. It's also water resistant. As one of the highest rated cases on the market, this case can handle even the toughest work sites. Available for numerous smartphones.

New iPad — $519 and up

With a million more pixels than your HD TV, the retina screen on Apple's new iPad must be seen to be believed. Watch sports, read your favourite publication or download one of the more than 500,000 apps now available in the App Store. Still one of the best tablets on the market.

iGrill — $79.95

Never overcook another steak again! The iGrill cooking/grilling thermometer communicates with your iPhone, iPod or iPad via Bluetooth so you can see the temperature of your meat in real time. Two probes means you can monitor two different cuts of meat at the same time. Best of all it has a range of 200 feet!

Grand Grill Daddy Cleaning Brush — $50

Use the power of steam to clean that barbecue grill. Fill this brush with water and watch the steam remove baked on food, grease and old residue. No scrubbing required. Of course, some dads will argue the remnants from your last charred meal only enhances flavours.

SensoGlove — $89.99

The first golf glove with a built-in computer to help improve your game. Sensors detect your grip, giving audio and visual feedback to let you know when your grip is too tight. If the glove wears out, simply transfer the computer to a new one.

LEGO Heavy Weapons — $16

A project for mature LEGO lovers. LEGO Heavy weapons gives detailed instructions on how to build a collection of truly impressive 1:1 scale working replicas of the world's most iconic firearms. A challenge for even the most serious builders.

Nest Thermostat — $250

Designed by the inventor of the iPod, Nest is a thermostat that learns your habits so it knows when to cool or heat your home, saving you money. Since Nest connects to the Internet you can control the temperature in your home from anywhere with your smartphone.

HYT H1 Titanium Watch — $47,000

An amazing blend of luxury and technology. Tiny bellows gently pump luminescent liquid around a ring on the face of the watch to display time. It's the first watch of its kind, gaining attention worldwide. Too bad very few will be able to afford this pricey timepiece.

Clockwise, from bottom left, new iPad — $519 and up, SensoGlove — $89.99, Samsung Galaxy SIII — $149.99 with contract, Ballistic Hard Core Case — $49.99, Nest Thermostat — $250, iGrill — $79.95, and LEGO Heavy Weapons — $16.

How to celebrate your dad's big day

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

You and the kids have breakfast in bed planned. Now what else should you do for Father's Day?

Here are some other ways to celebrate the big guy this Sunday.

Spending quality time with dad during Father's Day is a simple, yet thoughtful, gesture from the family. DESIGN PICS/THINKSTOCK

Make it from the heart

"To truly celebrate my role as a father, I would love to be recognized for the things I do day in and day out," says Jim Lin, the blogger behind busydad.com. And that recognition could even be as small as a homemade card or drawing telling dad why he really is the best dad ever.

"But if you want to indulge me on my special day, all I really want to do is spend the day enjoying my family without the usual distractions that come with it, such as chores, cleaning, watching what I eat and so forth."

However, if you are out of preschool and have grown out of making those homemade cards for dad, little heartfelt gestures go a long way — think taking dad out to do something he loves, from going for coffee to a game of tennis on the courts.

Keep it family focused

The point is to make it special and involve the family, says Chris Read, the blogger who writes canadiandad.com. "While a lot of guys would love to golf with their buddies or ride in a limo in Vegas, the real truth is that we have all year to do that stuff and this day should be about family," says Read. "Maybe give dad an hour to himself at some point during the day and that will be more than enough."

No distractions

"But if you want to indulge me on my special day, all I really want to do is spend the day enjoying my family without the usual distractions that come with it ..."

Jim Lin, busydad.com blogger

Sleep, sleep, sleep

Give dad the ultimate gift any father can appreciate.

"On the actual day, a sleep-in is always a great way to spoil dad. They're a lot less frequent nowadays," says Nick Cheeseman, a father and blogger with Canadad (ncheeseman.blogspot.ca). "For me, a day of family fun such as an outing to the zoo would be best the way to spend it. Just avoid maybe big brunches with the whole extended family or some time to watch the big game on the couch."

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Gifts that keep on giving

Eco friendly. Ideas that both your dad and the planet will love

Father's Day is just around the corner, so this year, instead of the next "state-of-the-art" gadget, why not give the gift that keeps on giving — a healthy planet. What could be more meaningful and special than a gift that both your dad and the planet will love?

"Every day I work to help ensure that my kids will grow up with a healthy planet," said Gerald Butts, president and CEO of World Wildlife Fund (WWF). "A gift that contributes to that would really make my day."

To help you find the perfect gift, here are three planet-friendly ideas to get your creative juices flowing:

1 An adoption: Present dad with something he can enjoy, like a new member of the family. Buy him the WWF symbolic wildlife adoption kit. You can choose from an array of cuddly animals and donate to WWF's conservation work. Just $40 gets you the adorable plush animal, plus a recycled gift bag, a personalized adoption certificate, an information-al booklet with a collector card and a $30 tax receipt. More information is available online at wwfstore.ca.

2 Eco-breakfast in bed: Cook up a delicious locally-sourced or organic breakfast and serve it to dad in comfort and style. Or treat him to a dinner out on the town at a local restaurant that offers a range of delicious and eco-friendly dishes. Organic breakfast recipes can be found online at organic-authority.com/organic-food-recipes/breakfast/.

3 Do-it-yourself recycled gifts: Make a father's day card or gift from recycled materials found around the house, or even in nature. Or you can look for a gently used gift from your favourite local vintage or antique shop. For great DIY eco gift ideas, check out everythingetsy.com/2011/09/25-handmade-gifts-for-men-diy/.

NEWS CANADA

Best of the Best for Dad

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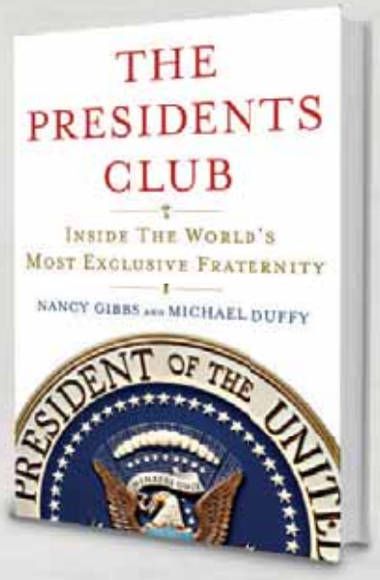
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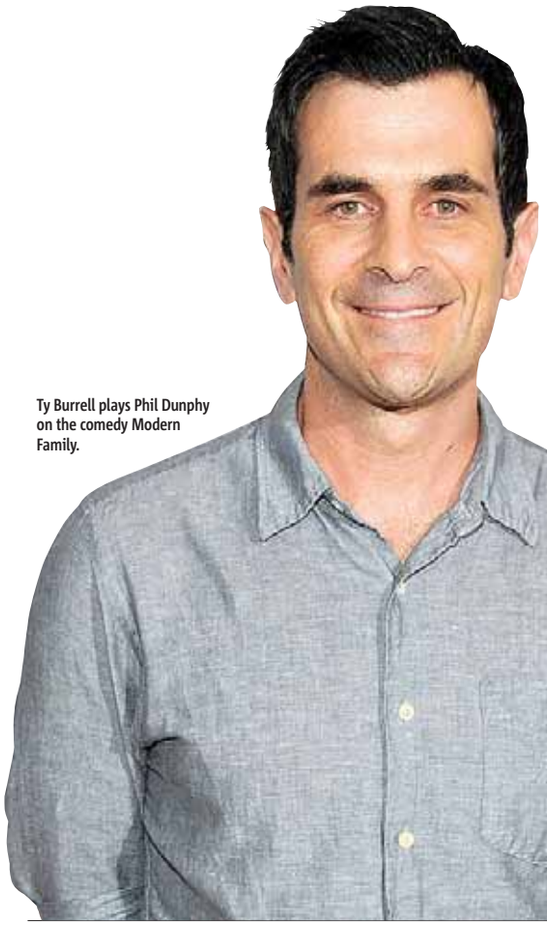
Father knows best

Pop culture. Dads on the big and small screen have shaped our behaviour over the years



Ty Burrell plays Phil Dunphy on the comedy Modern Family.

PETER DOYLE
For Metro

"I'm not a father, but I play one on television"

As much as we may like to deny it, popular television shows and movies shape our behaviour. Fatherhood is no exception. Here is a quick guide to some well-known fathers and how they influence our take on fatherhood.

Television

Television, like all popular media, has both shaped and reflected our views of fatherhood.

In the 1960s, programs such as the Andy Griffith Show idealized fathers as upstanding men who were free from vice and able to support and love all members of the family equally.

In the 1970s, All In The Family broke the mould with a father whose foibles and bigotry provided comic relief. Despite his shortcomings, however, Archie Bunker managed to remain endearing.

In the 1980s and 1990s, fathers took on a much broader range, from the comically hopeless Homer Simpson, to the letter-perfect Heathcliff Huxtable on The Cosby Show and the tragically spineless Ray Barone on Everybody Loves Raymond.

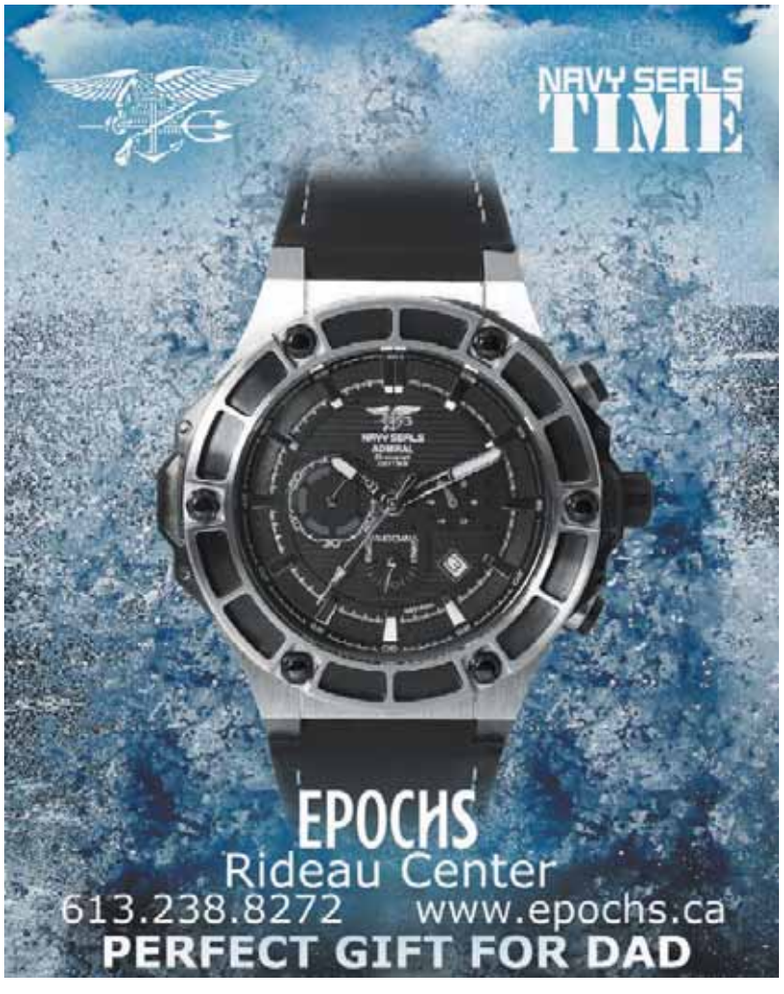
Phil Dunphy of Modern Family puts an interesting modern twist on fatherhood called "peerenting" — talk like a peer, but act like a parent.

Movies

Blockbuster movies, not surprisingly, offer more dramatic guidance. Again, the model has changed from matchless heroes such as Atticus Finch in To Kill A Mockingbird and George Bailey in It's A Wonderful Life to more complex characters such as Ted Kramer in Kramer vs. Kramer, Calvin Jarrett in Ordinary People, and Lester Burnham in American Beauty.

Perhaps the strongest lessons from movie fathers have to do with what to avoid: The family business (Don Vito Corleone in The Godfather), the dark side (Darth Vader in the Star Wars series), and winters spent in an empty resort (Jack Torrance in The Shining).

Some of the most positive models of fatherhood come from the world of professional sports. Wayne Gretzky's father Walter, for instance, is a tireless volunteer who can no longer remember his son's exploits. Louis John Sutter, the patriarch of the Sutter clan, proves that quantity and quality can coexist. Six of his sons and two of his grandsons played in the NHL, earning a total of six Stanley Cups — and counting.



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New ideas. Resist the urge to get the same old gift

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Step away from the tie ... and try getting something new for dad this Father's Day. Stumped for ideas?

We asked four daddy bloggers for suggestions on what to give dad.

Dads in their 20s-30s

"Try spoiling dad with things like breakfast in bed or an hour at a day spa — yes, modern dads also enjoy looking after their bodies well," says Stefan Korn, the blogger behind DIYFather.com. Many spas offer Father's Day packages that include services such as facials, massages, pedicures for men and more.

Dads in their 40s-50s

Help keep top of dad's mind while he is at work, suggests Warren Orlans, the blogger behind urbandaddy.wordpress.com. "Last year, I received a beautiful set of cufflinks, which are very much back in fashion for working dads," he says. Other ideas include a picture frame with the family's picture in it or a mouse pad with a picture of the kids on it.

"Give him something where he can be a kid again," says Nick Cheeseman, the Canadad blogger (ncheeseman.blogspot.ca).

Think gifts such as a new football if dad likes to toss the ball around or a new Wii game just for him to play.

"Tickets to a sporting event or some advanced driving lessons — rally or race, not defensive — also works," says Cheeseman. "If you really want to splurge, how about a whitewater rafting trip with his buddies or a weekend kid free, especially with his wife."

If you want to splurge

"If you really want to splurge, how about a whitewater rafting trip with his buddies or a weekend kid free, especially with his wife."

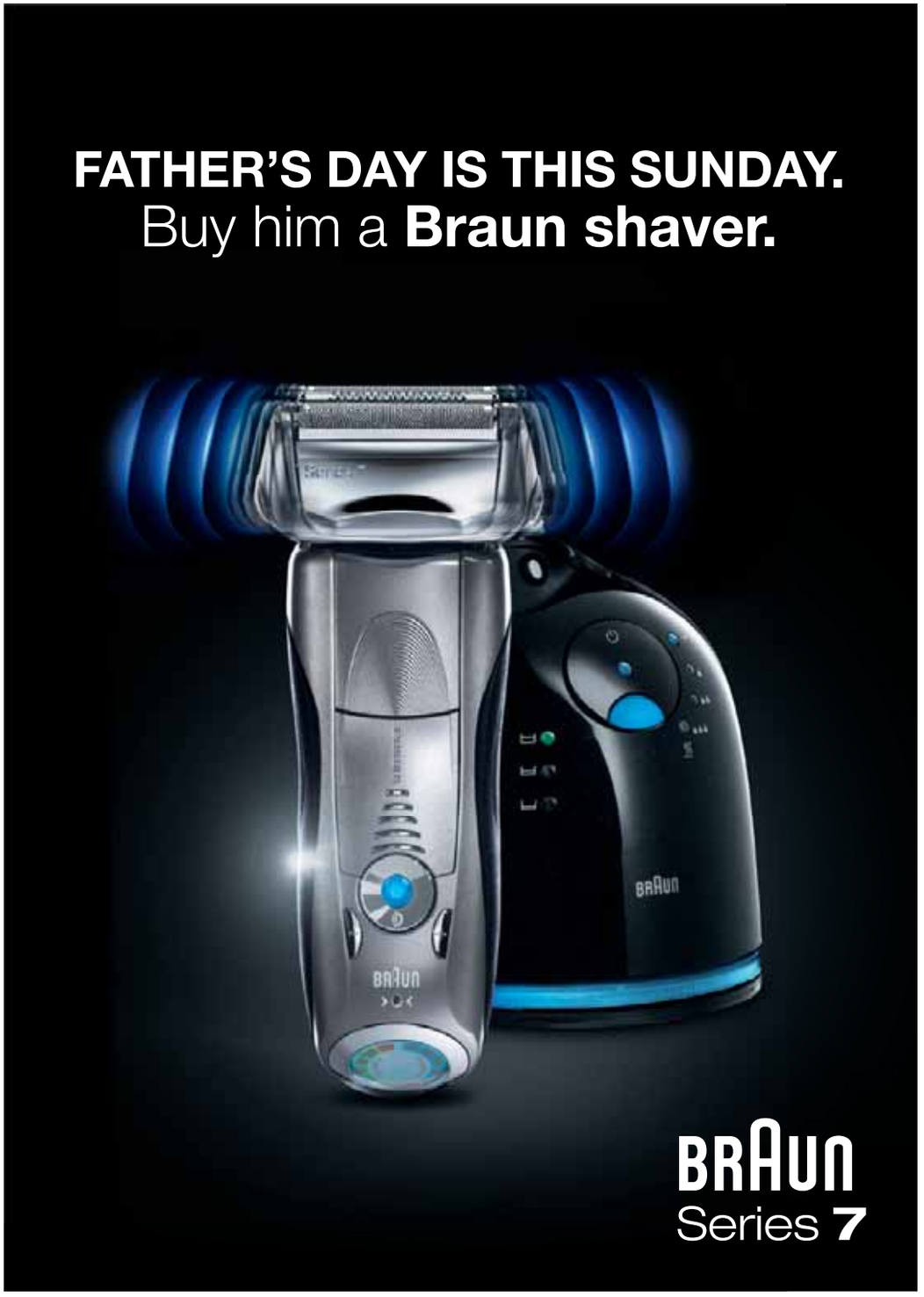
Nick Cheeseman, Canadad blogger

Dads in 60s and older

Give dad a bottle of his favourite drink, suggests Korn. Get a little creative if you can — pair a bottle of spicy vodka with a can of Clamato, celery salt and pepperoni sticks or a bunch of celery for homemade Caesars, or a six-pack of beer plus an offer to take him on a brewery tour.

If you really can't decide what to get him, give the choice to dad. "Dads love gift cards to tool shops, sporting goods stores and electronics," says Chris Read, the blogger with canadiandad.com.

"Yes, gift cards are impersonal but they are what we like, so don't feel bad!"



Thumbs up for your gaming dad

KAREN FALCON
For Metro

There is a whack of really great games (ESRB: M) out there and for a MSRP of $59.99, we encourage you to give your video-gaming dad the gift of hours of finger-numbing entertainment.

Diablo III
Microsoft Windows, Mac OS X

It's an intense action role-playing, dungeon crawling, hack and slash, online single-player, online multiplayer blockbuster. Now all dad has to do is lay cunning traps on his enemies, turn destructible objects against his foes, and battle the unholy forces of the Burning Hells. Easy, right?

Lollipop Chainsaw
PS3, Xbox 360

Everybody knows dads love a good zombie hack and slash. Releasing just in time for Father's Day, Lollipop Chainsaw is the "un-deadly" story of sweet and killer chainsaw-wielding zombie-hunter Juliet Starling and her quest to uncover the root of a colossal zombie outbreak.

Max Payne 3
Microsoft Windows, PS3, Xbox 360

A third-person shooter featuring single and multiplayer modes, Rockstar Games brings dad cutting-edge mechanics for precision gunplay and advanced new Bullet Time and Shootdodge effects.

No longer a cop, dad gets to play as Max — close to washed up and addicted to pain killers. Then, in an effort to escape his troubled past, he has to protect the family of a wealthy real estate mogul and he also gets to shoot stuff.

The Walking Dead: The Game
iOs, Mac OS X, Microsoft Windows, PS3, Xbox 360
MSRP: $4.99
Five Monthly Episodes

Is dad hooked on The Walking Dead? If so, he might need this downloadable adventure game based on the comic book and TV series. In it, dad will be forced to make meaningful decisions, explore his surroundings, protect the orphaned girl named Clementine, and fight for survival while enduring the true horror of the zombie apocalypse.

Ghost Recon: Future Soldier
PS3, Xbox360, Microsoft Windows

In this tactical shooter, dad will be armed to the teeth with an arsenal of real-world high-tech weaponry only in prototype today. Specialized in every area of combat, equipped for survival, and trained in absolute discretion, he will be among the few who possess the power, the adaptability, and the cognitive fortitude of the future soldier.

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Keeping your memories alive

Remembering. Plan a small tribute with siblings to honour your dad if he isn't around anymore

KELLY PUTTER
For Metro

Dad may be gone but there are ways to honour his memory this Father's Day.

"Father's Day can be a real trigger for people," says Vancouver counselling therapist Glynis Sherwood. "Society really focuses on the celebration, but it can be a painful reminder that your father is no longer with you."

Celebrations like Father's Day can elicit anniversary grief. This reaction typically occurs on landmark dates such as the anniversary of a death. But it can also hit during happy festivities such as birthdays.

If you are feeling vulnerable or you fear Father's Day could prompt depression, it's critical to make plans around this time, says Sherwood.

She recommends planning a small tribute with siblings to honour your father. Ask them to bring photos or videos of dad. Think about memorializing him by doing something he loved. If dad was a big walker, consider going on a hike. If gardening was his hobby, planting a tree in his name might help.

Creating new rituals that pay tribute to dad is another way to salute his spirit. One of Sherwood's clients goes skiing every year with her adult children to honour her husband and their father, an avid skier.

Memorializing dad online is a great way to commemorate him. Consider creating a website with a montage of photos or perhaps a video set to music. A memorial page on Facebook is an option. This allows family and friends to view the tribute and to potentially provide ongoing support.

If you prefer to acknowledge dad in a more quiet and reflective way, that's OK, too, says Sherwood.

"The important thing is what's going to help you," she says. "Some people do grieve very privately and there's nothing wrong with that unless it takes you to a dark place."

If dad is away due to a military assignment or other work commitments, there are options to mark Father's Day. Get in touch thanks to visual technology such as Skype. When it comes to communicating via email, send photos and videos.

"It's important to honour these milestones if they're meaningful to you," Sherwood says.

"And remember that you might feel lonely or worried because your husband or dad is in a dangerous situation but it's an opportunity for people to reach out and pull together."

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Inspiration. Spend quality time with grandpa

If you think dads feel neglected after years of forgotten Father's Day fanfare, grandfathers may feel it even more.

Every Mother's Day, we lavish our mothers and grandmothers with heartfelt cards and flowers, but when Father's Day rolls around, some don't even get a call. Though most men will often shrug that it's "no big deal," why not make things better this year?

Get inspired with some of these gift ideas:

Quality time with you. Most grandfathers would prefer spending time with their loved ones to a cheesy joke card and No. 1 Grandpa tie. Tear out a page from your day planner and literally give your whole day to grandpa, participating in his favourite activities like fishing or birdwatching. Or buy tickets to watch a concert, movie, stand-up comic, or sports event together.

Donate in his honour. Show your appreciation to your grandfather and all the ways he helped to shape you into who you have become. Organizations like Christian Children's Fund of Canada (ccfcanada.ca) offer valuable gift items like fruit trees, mosquito nets, and clean water wells to help struggling families overseas. You can customize a card for your grandpa and show him how his generosity inspired you to help others.

MP3 player. Rummage through his old vinyl records and cassette tapes and find matching MP3s to load onto a player. Then show him how to use his new gadget so he can enjoy music he loves.

Photo gifts. Load all your favourite photos of children and grandchildren into a digital picture frame. Or frame a collage print of your favourite memories for display.

NEWS CANADA

Something simple will make grandpa smile. NEWS CANADA

Dad will appreciate a new barbecue. NEWS CANADA

Put these ideas on front burner

Roundup. From a barbecue to tools, dad will be able to use these gifts throughout the year

With Father's Day just around the corner, choose gifts that he will use and love throughout the year. Take a look at this roundup of ideas in every price range:

1 A new barbecue — Did you know the latest models now come with accessories such as rotisserie kits and searing side burners? Look for a large cooking surface with enough BTUs to get your grate temperature up to 500 F to 600 F for optimal meat cooking. Brands such as Hamilton Beach, Kenmore, Char-Broil, Broil King and Hamilton Beach are popular choices for everyday grilling. And don't forget the tongs, meat forks and other grill implements.

2 Cordless drill — A must-have for any do-it-yourselfer dad. Look for a 19.2-volt size with a battery check function for light, powerful and reliable performance.

3 Cordless auto hammer — The best have a pivoting head to get into the tightest spaces and a charging station, like the Craftsman Nextec, which offers an additional 30 minutes with just three minutes in the charging dock.

4 Lawnmower — If dad is still struggling with a pull-start lawnmower, give him the gift of time and reliability with a push-button start mower. Exclusive to Craftsman, the new EZ line of mowers have right and left hand controls, ergonomic handling to ease hand fatigue and one-hand bag removal features. With the yard looking great in no time he will have more time for grilling (or golf).

5 Tractor — For the dad with land, let him ride in style. Look for tractors with the latest "tight turn" technology to get closer around trees and other obstacles so he will spend less time having to trim edges. The safest new tractors also have rear-mounted engines that provide better visibility and stability.

More information and Father's Day gift ideas can be found online at sears.ca.

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Is your father caught in the Dark Ages?

Technophobes. Old-school ideas such as books, tickets or classes is right choice for some dads

Your dad doesn't own a cellphone, use email, or purchase items online.

He often sighs wistfully aloud, remembering "the way things were" and scoffing when you momentarily stop talking with him to check a text message. Your dad is a technophobe and no matter how hard you try, he doesn't share your views on the conveniences of new gadgets and technology.

This Father's Day, instead of shelling out more cash on a new device he will never use, consider these ideas that will bring him comfort instead of stress:

• Books and magazines. Make note of novels, magazines, and series that dad enjoys and buy him the latest copy or a magazine subscription. If dad likes one author in particular, visit the author's website to see if they will be on tour for a reading or autograph signing.

• Concert or sports tickets. He will enjoy the quality time with you as much as he enjoys his favourite musician or sports team.

• Class enrolment. Has he expressed interest in learning how to fly a plane? Get him a flight simulation package or flying lessons. Does dad want to learn how to impress mom on the dance floor? Ballroom dance lessons for both should do the trick. Give the gift of learning so he can pick up a new skill.

• Charitable gift donation. If dad has everything he really needs, honour him by donating to a cause he is passionate about. Organizations like Christian Children's Fund of Canada offer practical gifts that save lives in developing countries, like a clean water well or mosquito nets that protect children from malaria. You can then personalize a card to show dad how he has helped others. NEWS CANADA

A charitable gift may be the right gift for your dad. NEWS CANADA

For the well-groomed father

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Byredo Sunday Cologne is for mom to give to dad. Zesty with a pinch of spice and incense, the scent is sexier than its name suggests — in fact, its original moniker was Fantastic Man. From $170, Holt Renfrew.

L'Oréal Paris Men Expert Hydra Energetic X Total Skin Cleanser will appeal to dad's inner little boy — he gets to wash his face with something black. That its charcoal complex eats up oil and dirt is a bonus. $10.99, drugstores.

Kiehl's Facial Fuel Sky Flyin' Foaming Multi-Gel can serve as refreshing face wash as well as a satisfyingly rich lathering shave foam. $23, www.kiehls.ca.

Givenchy Play Sport is as invigorating and clean as one might expect of a sporty scent, but in keeping with stylish frontman Justin Timberlake, also has a cool, elegant vibe. From $65, Shoppers Drug Mart, Murale and Sephora.

Clarins Men Exfoliating Cleanser combines salicylic acid and lava powder to keep pores clear, get rid of patchy dry skin, and leave dad's face feeling smooth and clean. $32, The Bay.

Gillette Fusion Proglide 3-in-1 Styler is a precision mash-up of Braun shaver and ProGlide blades to help dad keep his beard, goatee or 'stache in good shape. $25.99, drugstores.

Neostrata Men Soothing Moisturizer employs a soothing botanical complex to reduce redness and skin sensitivity, as well as a potent peptide to boost skin's repair process. $29, well.ca.

Schwarzkopf Professional [3D]MENSION Hair & Body Shampoo offers dad zippy yet gentle cleansing for hair and skin, and makes a colourful splash in the shower stall. $15, drugstores.

YSL L'Homme Libre is a light, modern scent for dad, crisp with a hint of sweet and subtle warmth. $89, department stores.

Portland General Store Whiskey Natural Aftershave Splash is a natural blend of aloe, sea kelp, blue-green algae, black willowbark and tea tree oil — and the scent is more woodsman than old boozer. $18, Indigo Books.

From left, Kiehl's Facial Fuel Sky Flyin' Foaming Multi-Gel, Schwarzkopf Professional [3D] MENSION Hair & Body Shampoo, Portland General Store Whiskey Natural Aftershave Splash, Gillette Fusion Proglide 3-in-1 Styler, L'Oréal Paris Men Expert Hydra Energetic X Total Skin Cleanser, Givenchy Play Sport, and Byredo Sunday Cologne.

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Hey sport, how about playing catch

PETER DOYLE
For Metro

With Father's Day fast approaching, the pressure is on to find a memorable gift. This year, instead of another tie or a bottle of single malt, find something that appeals to his inner sportsman.

The first step is to consider which sports interest your dad: Does he play recreational hockey? Is he a golfer, a cross-country skier, a runner? There is a set of equipment and apparel for each sport.

Once you have chosen a sport, you will need to learn if there is something he needs. A little research will help: Get in touch with one of his teammates or buddies (e.g., tennis or golf partner). While many men tend to buy what they want when they need it, most often settle for low- to medium-quality. This might give you an opportunity to go for the gold: Giving him something of a quality higher than he would buy for himself sends a clear message that you believe he is worth it.

If your dad is more fan than player, start by making a list of his favourite teams. Merchandising is the cash cow of professional sports and the array of team branded gear expands daily: From chairs and key chains to rubber ducks, and iPhone and iPod covers. Another option is to buy a television or Internet package so he can watch to his heart's content.

If your dad loves books, buy a large-format tome such as Sports Illustrated's The Baseball Book or The Hockey Book. If he is a serious reader, consider Stephen Brunt's Gretzky's Tears: Hockey, Canada and The Day Everything Changed, or Searching for Bobby Orr. A more sentimental choice is Fathers and Sons and Sports, a collection of short stories and reports from a long list of great writers.

If your father goes to the gym regularly, consider a good quality bag for sports gear or toiletries. A few other ideas: A bike computer or pedometer, or camping gear, such as a headlamp or comfortable camp chair.

The best gift of all, of course, is the gift of time. So take your dad to a game, watch a sports-themed movie together or just play some catch in the backyard.

Wordle.net lets children stretch their imagination by thinking of expressive words that best describe their dad. CONTRIBUTED

Crafts. Handmade gifts that are made from the heart

KELLY PUTTER
For Metro

Nothing says you care quite like a personalized gift, so encourage kids to create their own mini masterpieces this Father's Day.

A perennial favourite is this tasty barbecue rub, says Oakville elementary school teacher Nina March. For this Emeril Lagasse recipe, combine 2½ tablespoons paprika with 2 tablespoons each of salt and garlic powder. Add 1 tablespoon each of black pepper, onion powder, cayenne powder, oregano and thyme and mix thoroughly. Pour into spice jars and you are good to go.

"Dads seem to like this gift so much that they often come back asking for the recipe year after year," says March, who has taught for 17 years. "When we do Father's Day gifts it reflects what kids think is important to their dads."

Coupon books are an inspired way to tell dad you love him. March encourages her students to design coupons that promise to make dad's life easier in some small way. Good options might be giving dad two hours of quiet time so he can watch the baseball game or assuring him you won't fight with your sibling at the dinner table.

Tech-savvy kids might enjoy this craft that fashions words into fun and funky artwork. Wordle.net lets children stretch their creative juices by thinking of expressive words that best describe dad. They might use dad, hockey, play and funny in their depiction. The website then spits out the words in different fonts, sizes and layouts. Print a copy and glue it onto construction paper. Children can make a puzzle-piece frame on card stock to complete the project.

No father can resist a world's-best-dad trophy. You will need two foam coffee cups, a five-inch square box, masking tape, one gold chenille stem, gold craft paint, black construction paper, glue and a white paint pen.

Glue the bottoms of the cups together. Once dry, wrap a piece of tape around the middle of the cups. Tape the entire box with masking tape. Cut chenille stem in half and insert into the sides of one cup as trophy handles.

Paint the cups and box in gold. Write "Word's Best Dad" in white on black construction paper and glue to the front of the box. Apply glue onto the bottom of the cup that doesn't have the trophy handles. Press on top of box and dry completely.

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Food for thought

Father's feast. From breakfast in bed to a hearty barbecue, let dad indulge on his special day

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Break out the barbecue for dad on Father's Day for a family meal. WAVEBREAK MEDIA/THINKSTOCK

Is the best way to dad's heart through his stomach? If so, daddy bloggers dish on foods to spoil dad with this June 17.

Start with breakfast

In his seven Father's Days as a dad, Warren Orlans, the blogger behind urbandaddy.wordpress.com, looks forward to a special family breakfast.

"A good Father's Day starts with breakfast out and ends with a barbecue," says Orlans. Since the special day can be a busy one at restaurants, think about booking a reservation — if possible — to ensure dad has a seat.

Bring on the meat!

"Break out the barbecue and surprise me with a giant piece of Canadian beef!" says Chris Read, the Ottawa-based blogger behind Canadian-dad.com.

"If that's not possible, there are always ribs or pizza. My family has a tradition of ordering Chinese food for special occasions but that's not for everybody."

Nick Cheeseman, the Canadad blogger (ncheeseman.blogspot.ca), says steaks and bacon are always welcome to pop. "But you could make it a bit more adventurous with lamb shanks or Osso Buco," he suggests. Want to cook it yourself? Search Metro News' food section (metronews.ca/food) or Foodnetwork.ca's site for inspiring recipes.

Don't forget the drinks

Read also suggests switching dad's drinks up for the day. "Father's Day isn't your run of the mill day so we don't want run of mill beverages," says Read, who prefers a glass of Crown Royal whiskey and Coke or a bottle of Steam Whistle beer. If dad is a wine lover, buy a bottle of his favourite wine and pair it with a wine appreciation course.

In the end, indulge

This is what dad really wants, says Jim Lin, the face behind busydadblog.com. "All dad wants is to enjoy indulging in comfort food to his heart's content," he says. "We don't need a fancy dinner. We just need a hunk of meat, or something dripping with cheese, drenched with sugar, deep fried, or all of the above. We generally avoid these foods because we want to live as long as possible to take care of our families. But these simple indulgences make us happier than you would ever believe."

COOL TOOLS
METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

TRIOLE: BIG SERVICE FOR SMALL ENGINES

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When you do, you will see a showroom filled with riding lawnmowers, chainsaws, leaf blowers, snow blowers and other small-engine equipment. You will know right away that every one is a quality product, because Triole only carries the best brands: Names like STIHL, Toro, Gravely, Briggs & Stratton, Billy Goat, and Ariens.

Triole won't sell you anything in a box, either. The store employs a team of professionals who assemble and properly tune every piece of small-engine equipment before handing it over to a buyer. If you have any questions or concerns about a piece of equipment — before or after you buy it — just ask.

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Complex case

Jurors resume deliberations in Clemens trial

In their final attempt to convince jurors that Roger Clemens lied to Congress, prosecutors basically called his wife a liar, too. In his closing, Clemens' lawyer Rusty Hardin characterized the case as "a horrible, horrible overreach by the government and everyone involved" and hammered away at the government's evidence.

Jurors, who met for 15 minutes Tuesday, resumed deliberations Wednesday as they work through a complex verdict sheet.

Two jurors have already been dismissed for sleeping, and U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said at a hearing Wednesday — while the jury deliberated in a separate room — that Hardin noticed another one sleeping during his closing argument the day before. Walton said that Hardin told him that's why he had pounded the podium.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award-winning pitcher, is charged with perjury, making false statements and obstructing Congress when he denied under oath in 2008 that he took steroids or HGH. The government's chief witness, Clemens' longtime strength coach Brian McNamee, said he injected Clemens with steroids in 1998, 2000 and 2001 and with HGH in 2000.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rogers Clemens
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tennis. Nestor and Raonic to lead Canada's Olympic tennis team

Olympic gold medallist Daniel Nestor and singles star Milos Raonic will lead Canada's tennis team at the London Olympics.

Nestor, Vasek Pospisil, Raonic and Aleksandra Wozniak were nominated for selection to Canada's Olympic team for London on Wednesday.

Nestor, who won Canada's only gold medal in tennis with Sebastien Lareau in 2000, will team up with Vancouver's Pospisil in doubles on the All England Club in Wimbledon, the Olympic venue for the sport.

Quoted

"My dream came true today. I'm very excited and I'm sure that I'll be feeling many emotions once I'm there."

Aleksandra Wozniak, on a conference call

Raonic, from Thornhill, Ont., and Wozniak, from Blainville, Que., will play singles.

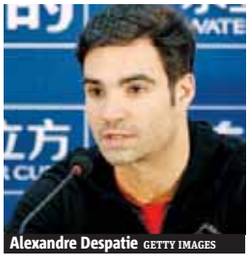
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympics. Canadian diver expected to compete in London despite head injury

Canadian diving star Alexandre Despatie is expected to compete at the Olympics in London despite a deep cut to his head from a diving accident.

The 27-year-old from Laval, Que., was training in Spain for this weekend's Grand Prix when he struck his head on the board full force Tuesday afternoon.

Despatie was performing an inward three-and-a-half at the time, during which his head spins back towards the board during rotation.



Alexandre Despatie GETTY IMAGES

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drabek hurt as Jays swept by Nationals

Kyle Drabek delivers a pitch against the Washington Nationals on Wednesday at Rogers Centre. BRAD WHITE/GETTY IMAGES

Slump. Toronto loses for the sixth time in seven games

For the second time in three days, the Toronto Blue Jays watched with concern as their starting pitcher walked off the mound in pain, too sore to keep going.

Monday it was Brandon Morrow, forced out after just nine pitches by a strained muscle in his left side. Wednesday it was Kyle Drabek, exiting in the fifth inning with soreness in his surgically-repaired right elbow.

Stephen Strasburg won his fifth straight start, Tyler Moore hit the first two home runs of his career and the Nationals beat the Blue Jays 6-2 Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Manager John Farrell and the trainer came to the mound after Drabek missed on an 0-1 pitch to Michael Morse, the second batter of the fifth. Drabek walked off the field and Aaron Laffey was called out of the bullpen.

Drabek lost for the third time in four starts, allowing four runs and seven hits in 4 1-3 innings. He walked two and struck out one. Jose Bautista hit his 19th home run for Toronto against Strasburg (8-1), a solo shot to left, but the Blue Jays fell below .500 for the first time this season (31-32).

"You get swept at home, it's never a good thing," Farrell said. "We've got to play better, bottom line." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Injury notes

Strength and stability tests showed no problems but Drabek acknowledged the episode was "pretty frightening."

- "It's just a little sore right now," he said. "Obviously I want to go back out and pitch but it's up to the trainers and coaches."

4 SPORTS

Quoted

"The public saw the fight and they're outraged, and we need clarity here."

Bob Arum, the promoter for the fight between Manny Pacquiao and Timothy Bradley, who hopes there will be "clarity" about the judging of the fight after the WBO announced it would review the controversial split decision that went in Bradley's favour. WBO president Francisco (Paco) Valcarcel said in a statement Wednesday that the WBO's championship committee will review video of the fight with five "recognized international judges" and make a recommendation. He said the WBO does not doubt the ability of the scoring judges. Most reporters seated ringside and the vast majority of fans inside the MGM Grand arena on Saturday night thought Pacquiao had easily defended his welterweight title against Bradley.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

Lance Armstrong may have thought doping allegations against him were laid to rest, but fresh charges from the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency have put the retired professional cyclist and seven-time Tour de France winner back in the spotlight. Scan the code for the story.

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German win has Netherlands facing early tourney exit

Nigel de Jong of the Netherlands tackles Mesut Ozil of Germany during a Euro 2012 Group B match on Wednesday in Kharkov, Ukraine. JOERN POLLEX/GETTY IMAGES

Euro 2012. Gomez nets two first-half goals as Germans sit atop tough Group B

Mario Gomez left the Netherlands on the brink of elimination from the European Championship, scoring both goals in Germany's 2-1 win Wednesday over one of its historic rivals.

Gomez scored both in the first half of one of the most anticipated showdowns of the tournament.

Robin van Persie pulled one back for the Netherlands in the second half but the defeat leaves the 2010 World Cup runner-up dangerously close to going home.

"Early on we had decent chances but the German goals came out of nowhere," Netherlands coach Bert van Marwijk said. "We defended badly. Our offence and defence did not connect.

Group B

Germany	Netherlands
2	1

"Germany really has an excellent team. It has power, creativity and scoring."

Germany, a three-time European champion, has six points from two wins but is still not sure of advancing from Group B, where three teams could end up with six points. Earlier, Portugal beat Denmark 3-2.

"We've taken a major step and opened the door to the quarter-finals," Germany coach Joachim Loew said. "Now we have our destiny in our own hands against Denmark."

The Netherlands, along with Germany, is considered one of the favourites but was drawn into a tough group. It now has lost both group games and needs to beat Portugal to have a hope. Germany will need only a draw against Denmark to win the group.

"The time just wouldn't pass, it remained standing (at the end of match)," said Gomez, who also scored the only goal in Germany's opening 1-0 win over Portugal. "They were pressing. It was close until the end but with Manuel Neuer in goal we can be a bit more relaxed.

"The expectations were great from our team even before the tournament and we've won six points against two classy teams, but it's a long way to the final."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We had imagined all of this very differently."

Netherlands captain Mark van Bommel

Late goal propels Portugal to win

Underperforming Portugal finally got a win. Underperforming Cristiano Ronaldo wasn't much help.

After a miserable run of four games without a victory and only one goal scored, the Portuguese came through with an 87th-minute goal from substitute Silvestre Varela to beat Denmark 3-2 in Group B of the European Championship.

"Those of us who don't play from the start must be ready to join in at any time and deliver what the manager wants," said Varela, who replaced Raul Meireles in the 84th. "We should keep on working like this to achieve our aims."

All four teams in Group B can still advance to the quarterfinals. After Germany beat the Netherlands 2-1 in the late match, the three-time champions lead the group with six points while both Portugal and Denmark have three.

Varela scored the winner three minutes from the end, spinning on the ball and shooting from short range. It was Varela's first international goal in four appearances.

But the winning strike came late, and after several missed opportunities from Ronaldo.

"We should have killed the game off earlier," Portugal coach Paulo Bento said. "We had enough chances."

Silvestre Varela of Portugal celebrates scoring in the 87th minute with Joao Moutinho during a Euro 2012 Group B match against Denmark on Wednesday in L'viv, Ukraine. ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

Portugal also got first-half goals from Pepe and Helder Postiga at the Lviv Arena, but the Danes replied with a pair of goals from Nicklas Bendtner. The Denmark striker found the target just before halftime and then made it 2-2 in the 80th.

"To lose in the last five minutes is very tough for us to take," Bendtner said. "We felt that one point at that stage was a very good result for us."

Ronaldo is Portugal's captain and easily its best player. And at Euro 2012, the team is looking to him to reproduce the kind of goal-rich form he showed at Real Madrid last season when he scored 60 goals.

But Ronaldo, facing a compact Danish defence that denied the Netherlands a goal in their opeing win, didn't even take a shot until the 18th minute. That one flew wide, and the forward threw his arms in the air and apparently cursed at a divot in the pitch.

"Ronaldo is one of the best players in the world and is a very good captain and a very good leader," Pepe said. "I'm sure he will score soon."

Ronaldo was the team's top scorer in qualifying for the tournament, racking up seven goals. But after the final whistle Wednesday, while Pepe raised his arms and celebrated, Ronaldo crouched alone on the field, staring quietly at the turf.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ambush marketing

Nicklas Bendtner could face UEFA action for ambush marketing after he scored his second goal in Denmark's 3-2 loss against Portugal. Bendtner's celebration Wednesday included lifting his shirt and dropping his shorts slightly to reveal a gambling firm's name on his underpants.

The bookmaker later tweeted a photograph claiming that Bendtner was wearing his lucky underwear.

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	36	25	.590	—
Baltimore	35	26	.574	1
Tampa Bay	35	26	.574	1
Toronto	31	32	.492	6
Boston	30	32	.484	6½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	34	27	.557	—
Cleveland	32	28	.533	1½
Detroit	28	33	.459	6
Kansas City	25	34	.424	8
Minnesota	25	35	.417	8½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	36	26	.581	—
Los Angeles	33	30	.524	3½
Oakland	27	35	.435	9
Seattle	27	36	.429	9½

INTERLEAGUE

Wednesday's results
Washington 6 Toronto 2
Pittsburgh at Baltimore
Boston at Miami
Cleveland at Cincinnati
N.Y. Yankees at Atlanta
N.Y. Mets at Tampa Bay
Arizona at Texas
Detroit at Chicago Cubs
Milwaukee at Kansas City
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Chicago White Sox at St. Louis
Oakland at Colorado
L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers
San Diego at Seattle
Tuesday's results
Washington 4 Toronto 2
Baltimore 8 Pittsburgh 6
Boston 2 Miami 1
Chicago Cubs 4 Detroit 3
Chicago White Sox 6 St. Louis 1
Cincinnati 7 Cleveland 1
Kansas City 2 Milwaukee 1
L.A. Dodgers 5 L.A. Angels 2
Minnesota 11 Philadelphia 7
N.Y. Mets 11 Tampa Bay 2
N.Y. Yankees 6 Atlanta 4
Oakland 8 Colorado 5
San Diego 5 Seattle 4
Texas 9 Arizona 1
Thursday's games — All Times Eastern
Cleveland (Tomlin 3-3) at Cincinnati (Leake 2-5), 12:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (J.Santana 3-3) at Tampa Bay (Hellickson 4-2), 1:10 p.m.
Detroit (Verlander 5-4) at Chicago Cubs (T.Wood 0-2), 2:20 p.m.
Oakland (J.Parker 2-3) at Colorado (White 2-4), 3:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Bedard 4-6) at Baltimore (Tom.Hunter 2-3), 7:05 p.m.
Arizona (D.Hudson 2-1) at Texas (Feldman 0-5), 8:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Marcum 5-3) at Kansas City (Hochevar 3-7), 8:10 p.m.
Philadelphia (Blanton 5-6) at Minnesota (Diamond 5-1), 8:10 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Floyd 4-6) at St. Louis (Westbrook 4-6), 8:15 p.m.
San Diego (Volquez 2-6) at Seattle (Er.Ramirez 0-0), 10:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	38	23	.623	—
Atlanta	34	28	.548	4½
New York	33	29	.532	5½
Miami	32	30	.516	6½
Philadelphia	29	34	.460	10

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	33	27	.550	—
Pittsburgh	32	28	.533	1
St. Louis	31	31	.500	3
Milwaukee	28	33	.459	5½
Houston	26	35	.426	7½
Chicago	21	40	.344	12½

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	40	23	.635	—
San Francisco	35	27	.565	4½
Arizona	30	31	.492	9
Colorado	24	36	.400	14½
San Diego	21	41	.339	18½

Wednesday's result
Houston at San Francisco
Tuesday's result
San Francisco 6, Houston 3
Thursday's game
All Times Eastern
Houston (W.Rodriguez 5-4) at San Francisco (Zito 5-3), 3:45 p.m.

NATIONALS 6, BLUE JAYS 2

Washington	ab	r	h	bi	Toronto	ab	r	h	bi
Lmrdzz lf	5	0	0	0	Lawrie 3b	4	0	1	1
Harper rf	5	0	1	0	Rasms cf	4	0	1	0
Zmrmn 3b	4	0	1	0	Bautist rf	3	1	1	1
Morse dh	4	1	1	0	Encmc 1b	3	0	0	0
Dsmnd ss	3	2	1	1	Cooper dh	4	0	0	0
Espinos 2b	3	1	1	0	YEscor ss	4	0	1	0
TMoore 1b	4	2	3	5	KJhnsn 2b	4	0	1	0
Ankiel cf	4	0	1	0	Arencii c	4	0	0	0
Flores c	3	0	0	0	RDavis lf	3	1	2	0
Totals	**35**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**Totals**	**33**	**2**	**7**	**2**

Washington	020	201	010 — 6
Toronto	002	000	000 — 2

DP—Toronto 1. LOB—Washington 5, Toronto 6. 2B—Harper (9), T.Moore (2), Rasmus (13). 3B—R.Davis (2). HR—Desmond (9), T.Moore 2 (2), Bautista (19). SB—Y.Escobar (1). CS—R.Davis (3).

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Strasburg W,8-1	6	5	2	2	1	8
Stammen H,4	2	2	0	0	1	4
Lidge	1	0	0	0	0	1
Toronto						
Drabek L,4-7	4 1-3	7	4	4	2	1
Laffey	3	2	2	2	0	2
Cordero	2-3	0	0	0	1	0
Janssen	1	0	0	0	0	1

WP—Strasburg.
Umpires — Home, Gary Cederstrom; First, Lance Barksdale; Second, Fieldin Culbreth; Third, Adrian Johnson.
T—2:52. A—41,667 (49,260) at Toronto.

CFL

PRE-SEASON

WEEK ONE

Wednesday's results
Toronto at Hamilton
Saskatchewan at B.C.
Thursday's game
Winnipeg at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Friday's game
Edmonton at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Week Two — Tuesday, June 19
Montreal at Toronto, 12 noon
Wednesday, June 20
Hamilton at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Thursday, June 21 — B.C. at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Friday, June 22
Calgary at Saskatchewan, 9 p.m.

GOLF

U.S. OPEN

Site: San Francisco.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Course: The Olympic Club, Lake Course (7,170 yards, par 70).
Purse: TBA (US$7.85 million in 2011).
Winner's share: TBA ($1.44 million in 2011).

TENNIS

ATP AEGON CHAMPIONSHIPS

At London
Wednesday's results
Singles — First Round
Tatsuma Ito, Japan, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 6-2.
Second Round
Nicolas Mahut, France, def. Andy Murray (1), Britain, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (1).
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (2), France, def. Jamie Baker, Britain, 6-3, 6-2.
Janko Tipsarevic (3), Serbia, def. Ryan Sweeting, U.S., 6-1, 7-6 (2).
Simone Bolelli, Italy, def. Gilles Simon (4), France, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2).
Feliciano Lopez (5), Spain, def. Steve Darcis, Belgium, 6-3, 3-6, 7-5.
Marin Cilic (6), Croatia, def. Matthew Ebden, Australia, 6-2, 6-1.
Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, def. Andy Roddick (7), U.S., 6-4, 4-6, 7-5.
Julien Benneteau (8), France, def. Tatsuma, Ito, Japan, 5-7, 6-4, 7-5.
Kevin Anderson (9), South Africa, def. Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, 7-6 (5), 2-6, 3-4 (retired).
David Nalbandian (10), Argentina, def. Ruben Bemelmans, Belgium, 6-4, 6-2.
Lukas Rosol, Czech Republic, def. Marcos Baghdatis (11), Cyprus, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4.
Sam Querrey, U.S., def. Denis Istomin (12), Uzbekistan, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Alex Bogomolov Jr. (13), Russia, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.
Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, def. Gilles Muller (14), Luxembourg, 7-6 (1), 6-4.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, def. Go Soeda (15), Japan, 6-3, 7-6 (3).
Yen-hsun Lu, Taiwan, def. Ivo Karlovic (16), Croatia, 6-7 (3), 7-6 (6), 7-6 (7).

WTA AEGON CLASSIC

At Birmingham, England
Wednesday's results
Singles — First Round
Hsieh Su-wei (13), Taiwan, def. Vera Dushevina, Russia, 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-4.
Timea Babos (14), Hungary, def. Alison Riske, U.S., 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (2).
Elena Baltacha (15), Britain, def. Chang Kai-chen,Taiwan, 4-6, 6-4, 7-5.
Alexandra Panova, Russia, def. **Stephanie Dubois, Laval, Que.**, 6-7 (2), 6-1, 7-5.
Second Round
Misaki Doi, Japan, def. Francesca Schiavone (1), Italy, 7-5, 6-4.
Urszula Radwanska, Poland, def. Sabine Lisicki (2), Germany, 6-3, 6-4.
Melinda Czink, Hungary, def. Daniela Hantuchova (3), Slovakia, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
Roberta Vinci (4), Italy, def. Virginie Razzano, France, 6-3 (retired).
Jelena Jankovic (5), Serbia, def. Melanie South, Britain, 6-1, 7-6 (3).
Andrea Hlavackova, Czech Republic, def. Mona Barthel (6), Germany, 7-6 (5), 6-2.
Ekaterina Makarova (8), Russia, def. Sesil Karatantcheva, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (4), 6-3.
Marina Erakovic (9), New Zealand, def. Laura Robson, Britain, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.
Elena Vesnina, Russia, def. Christina McHale (10), U.S., 6-1, 1-6, 7-5.
Hsieh Su-wei (13), Taiwan, def. Alexandra Panova, Russia, 6-4, 6-2.
Irina Falconi, U.S., def. Timea Babos (14), Hungary, 6-0, 6-4.
Heather Watson, Britain, def. Elena Baltacha (15), Britain, 7-6 (5), 6-3.
Casey Dellacqua, Australia, def. Tara Moore, Britain, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.
Zheng Jie, China, def. Anne Keothavong, Britain, 6-3, 6-4.
Stephanie Foretz Gacon, France, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Australia, 7-5, 6-2.

ATP GERRY WEBER OPEN

At Halle, Germany
Wednesday's results
Singles — Second Round
Tomas Berdych (3), Czech Republic, def. Viktor Troicki, Serbia, 6-3, 6-2.
Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, def. Alexandr Dolgopolov (4), Ukraine, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.
Milos Raonic (5), Thornhill, Ont., def. Zhang Ze, China, 6-1, 6-1.
Radek Stepanek, Czech Republic, def. Cedrik-Marcel Stebe, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.
Doubles — Quarter-finals
Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan, and Jean-Julien Rojer (1), Netherlands, def. Johan Brunstrom, Sweden, and Philipp Marx, Germany, 7-6 (7), 6-7 (1), 10-7 (tiebreak).

WTA GASTEIN LADIES

At Bad Gastein, Austria
Wednesday's results
Singles — First Round
Ksenia Pervak (3), Kazakhstan, def. Lara Arruabarrena-Vecino, Spain, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (3).
Yvonne Meusburger, Austria, def. Petra Martic (5), Croatia, 6-1, 4-6, 7-6 (5).
Irina-Camelia Begu (6), Romania, def. Kathrin Woerle, Germany, 7-5, 1-6, 6-3.
Johanna Larsson (8), Sweden, def. Jana Cepelova, Slovakia, 6-4, 7-6 (1).
Jill Craybas, U.S., def. Nina Bratchikova, Russia, 7-5, 6-3.
Dia Evtimova, Bulgaria, def. Barbara Haas, Austria, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3.

NBA PLAYOFFS

THE FINALS

(Best of 7)
All Times Eastern
OKLAHOMA CITY (W2) VS. MIAMI (E2)
(Oklahoma City leads series 1-0)
Tuesday's result
Oklahoma City 105 Miami 94
Thursday's game
Miami at Oklahoma City, 9 p.m.
Sunday's game
Oklahoma City at Miami, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, June 19
Oklahoma City at Miami, 9 p.m.
Thursday, June 21
x-Oklahoma City at Miami, 9 p.m.
Sunday, June 24
x-Miami at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.
Tuesday, June 26
x-Miami at Oklahoma City, 9 p.m.
x — played only if necessary.

LATE TUESDAY

THUNDER 105, HEAT 94

MIAMI (94)
James 11-24 7-9 30, Battier 6-9 1-2 17, Haslem 2-6 0-0 4, Chalmers 5-7 0-0 12, Wade 7-19 5-5 19, Bosh 4-11 1-2 10, Miller 1-2 0-0 2, Anthony 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-78 14-18 94.
OKLAHOMA CITY (105)
Durant 12-20 8-9 36, Ibaka 5-10 0-1 10, Perkins 2-2 0-0 4, Westbrook 10-24 7-9 27, Sefolosha 2-5 5-6 9, Collison 4-5 0-0 8, Harden 2-6 0-0 5, Fisher 3-5 0-0 6, Cook 0-0 0-2 0. Totals 40-77 20-27 105.

Miami	29	25	19	21	— 94
Oklahoma City	22	25	27	31	—105

3-Point Goals—Miami 8-19 (Battier 4-6, Chalmers 2-4, Bosh 1-3, James 1-3, Miller 0-1, Wade 0-2), Oklahoma City 5-17 (Durant 4-8, Harden 1-2, Fisher 0-1, Sefolosha 0-2, Westbrook 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 38 (Haslem 11), Oklahoma City 52 (Collison 10). Assists—Miami 20 (Wade 8), Oklahoma City 22 (Westbrook 11). Total Fouls—Miami 19, Oklahoma City 16. Technicals—Battier, Westbrook.
A—18,203 (18,203) at Oklahoma City, Okla.

SOCCER

WORLD CUP QUALIFYING

NORTH, CENTRAL AND CARIBBEAN ZONE

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
U.S.	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Jamaica	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Guatemala	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Antigua	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Tuesday's results
At St. John's, Antigua
Antigua 0 Jamaica 0
At Guatemala City
Guatemala 1 U.S. 1
Friday, Sept. 7
Guatemala vs. Antigua
Jamaica vs. U.S.

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Mexico	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Costa Rica	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
El Salvador	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Guyana	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Tuesday's results
At San Salvador, El Salvador
Mexico 2 El Salvador 1
At Georgetown, Guyana
Costa Rica 4 Guyana 0
Friday, Sept. 7
Costa Rica vs. Mexico
El Salvador vs. Guyana

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pt
Panama	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Canada	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**4**
Honduras	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Cuba	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

Tuesday's results
At Toronto
Canada 0 Honduras 0
At Panama City
Panama 1 Cuba 0
Friday, Sept. 7
Canada vs. Panama
Cuba vs. Honduras

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
D.C. United	15	8	4	3	28	19	27
New York	13	8	3	2	26	18	26
Kansas City	12	8	3	1	17	10	25
Columbus	12	5	4	3	13	13	18
Chicago	13	5	5	3	15	17	18
Houston	12	4	4	4	13	15	16
New England	13	5	7	1	18	18	16
Montreal	13	3	7	3	15	21	12
Philadelphia	11	2	7	2	8	14	8
Toronto	10	1	9	0	8	21	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Real Salt Lake	14	9	3	2	22	14	29
San Jose	14	8	3	3	27	17	27
Seattle	13	7	3	3	16	9	24
Vancouver	13	6	3	4	16	15	22
Colorado	13	6	6	1	20	18	19
Chivas USA	13	4	6	3	9	14	15
Portland	12	3	5	4	12	15	13
Dallas	15	3	8	4	15	24	13
Los Angeles	13	3	8	2	15	21	11

Saturday's games
All Times Eastern
Dallas at Houston, 5 p.m.
Colorado at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
D.C. United at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Columbus at New England, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto at Kansas City, 8:30 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Chivas USA, 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
New York at Chicago, 5 p.m.
Portland at Los Angeles, 8 p.m.

EURO 2012

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Russia	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Czech Republic	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Poland	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Greece	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Tuesday's results
At Wroclaw, Poland
Czech Republic 2 Greece 1
At Warsaw, Poland
Poland 1 Russia 1
Saturday's games
At Warsaw, Poland
Greece vs. Russia, 2:45 p.m.
At Wroclaw, Poland
Czech Republic vs. Poland, 2:45 p.m.

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Germany	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Portugal	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Denmark	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Netherlands	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Wednesday's results
At Lviv, Ukraine
Portugal 3 Denmark 2
At Kharkiv, Ukraine
Germany 2 Netherlands 1
Sunday's games
At Kharkiv, Ukraine
Portugal vs. Netherlands, 2:45 p.m.
At Lviv, Ukraine
Denmark vs. Germany, 2:45 p.m.

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Croatia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Italy	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Spain	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Ireland	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Sunday's results
At Gdansk, Poland
Spain 1 Italy 1
At Poznan, Poland
Croatia 3 Ireland 1
Thursday's games
At Poznan, Poland
Italy vs. Croatia, 12 noon
At Gdansk, Poland
Spain vs. Ireland, 2:45 p.m.

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PTS
Ukraine	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
England	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
France	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sweden	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Monday's results
At Donetsk, Ukraine
France 1 England 1
At Kiev, Ukraine
Ukraine 2 Sweden 1
Friday's games
At Kiev, Ukraine
Sweden vs. England, 12 noon
At Donetsk, Ukraine
Ukraine vs. France, 2:45 p.m.

NASL

	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Puerto Rico	10	6	2	2	19	7	20
San Antonio	10	5	1	4	14	9	19
Minnesota	10	4	1	5	15	13	17
Fort Lauderdale	11	3	4	4	15	18	13
Tampa Bay	11	3	5	3	11	15	12
Edmonton	10	3	5	2	11	10	11
Carolina	11	2	4	5	18	20	11
Atlanta	11	1	5	5	11	22	8

Saturday's games — All Times Eastern
Carolina at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Fort Lauderdale, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Puerto Rico, 7:30 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

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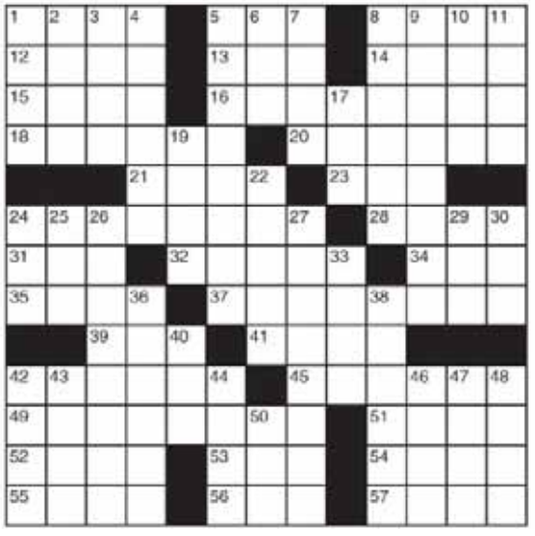
Crossword

Across

1 Venomous snakes
5 "The A-Team" actor
8 Borders
12 Beehive State
13 — de cologne
14 Sandwich cookie
15 Easy gait
16 Clever plan
18 Snow White's allies
20 Melee
21 Land map
23 Set of parts
24 Poker hand
28 Prevalent
31 Have bills
32 Prepare to drive
34 Neither's mate
35 Luxurious
37 Alien
39 Also
41 Opposed
42 Handy
45 Vessel for boiling
49 Noncommittal position
51 Teeny amount
52 Noble
53 Festive
54 Pressing need?
55 Argument
56 Type units
57 Albacore, e.g.

Down

1 "— Lang Syne"
2 Pack cargo
3 One of the Three Bears
4 Himalayan guide
5 Some notes
6 Snitch
7 Surf and —
8 Pompous talk
9 Putting up
10 Grand-scale prefix
11 Beans used in miso
17 Noah's boat
19 Move like a moth
22 Eighth Greek letter
24 Bribe
25 Pair
26 Roadside stop
27 Jailers
29 Enemy
30 Blunder
33 Liver spread
36 Capital of Tasmania
38 Fool
40 Ancient
42 Mail-truck abbr.
43 Dance lesson
44 Rim
46 From one end to t'other
47 "The — King"
48 Sicilian volcano
50 Fugitive's flight



Sudoku

	9	6	1					
7				8				9
				4				1
2		8			3		9	
6	5						8	7
	4		2			6		5
8				6				
5				1				3
					9	7	5	

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	5	9	8	7	4	3	2
8	3	7	4	6	2	1	5	9
2	4	9	1	3	5	7	6	8
5	7	6	2	1	8	9	4	3
1	9	8	6	4	3	5	2	7
4	2	3	5	7	9	6	8	1
7	8	1	3	5	4	2	9	6
3	5	2	7	9	6	8	1	4
9	6	4	8	2	1	3	7	5

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play
This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

TX IDJHNGIIO JPCOI YN YPSI ONDI WIXWIOZTKM OTJO NX ONEP, DTMZY YZIG QI EWTKSTKM QWIPS XHCTE?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: THE PASTOR ALWAYS SAVED SOME ROOM FOR WHAT HAD BECOME HIS FAVORITE DESSERT, PREACH MELBA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals F

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today 24°/10° Sunny
Friday 26°/14° Sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
TWN incorporates MSC data

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. You'll hear what you want to hear today and ignore anything that does not fit in with your preconceived ideas. But why limit your thinking?

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Don't worry if you're not doing much on a practical level because this is a time for thinking and planning.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. This could be a stressful day, especially where relationships are concerned. Misunderstandings are likely but how you let them affect you is a matter of choice.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. When the pressure gets to be too much, you can get emotional. The planets warn that a small emotional explosion is likely today. But it's better than a big one later!

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. It's not like you to be emotionally distant but something has annoyed you and now you are keeping your distance from certain people. It'll pass.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Try not to make promises you may not be able to keep today because if you let people down, they won't be too happy about it.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Others are unlikely to react well if you are critical of their efforts today. They may be doing it wrong, but pointing out their faults and failings isn't likely to endear you to them.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. One moment you are too generous and the next you are too tough. It may be a reaction to other people's inconsistencies.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. Colleagues and employers will look kindly on you today, so if there is anything you want from them now would be a good time to ask.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You seem concerned with personal relationships at the moment but until the Sun moves into your opposite sign on the 20th, you won't be able to change much for the better.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. If you are not enjoying what you are working on then it's pretty obvious you are working on the wrong thing.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. You may be eager to show the world what you can do but if you are smart you'll hold off for a while. The Sun moves in your favour next week.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Mom was right when she said ballet classes would be worth it one day."
Iris

GERALD HERBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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